MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

マルドゥック・スクランブル

4

created by
TOW UBUKATA

manga by
YOSHITOKI OIMA

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[redacted]

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make a fresh start in Eden

Wounded in a tragic and bloody fight with Boiled, Rune is rescued and brought to Eden, a former research institution. In Eden, she finds peace...but all of that could come crashing down around her when an assassin invades the tranquil garden of her new home.

Includes special extras after the story!

make a fresh start in eden

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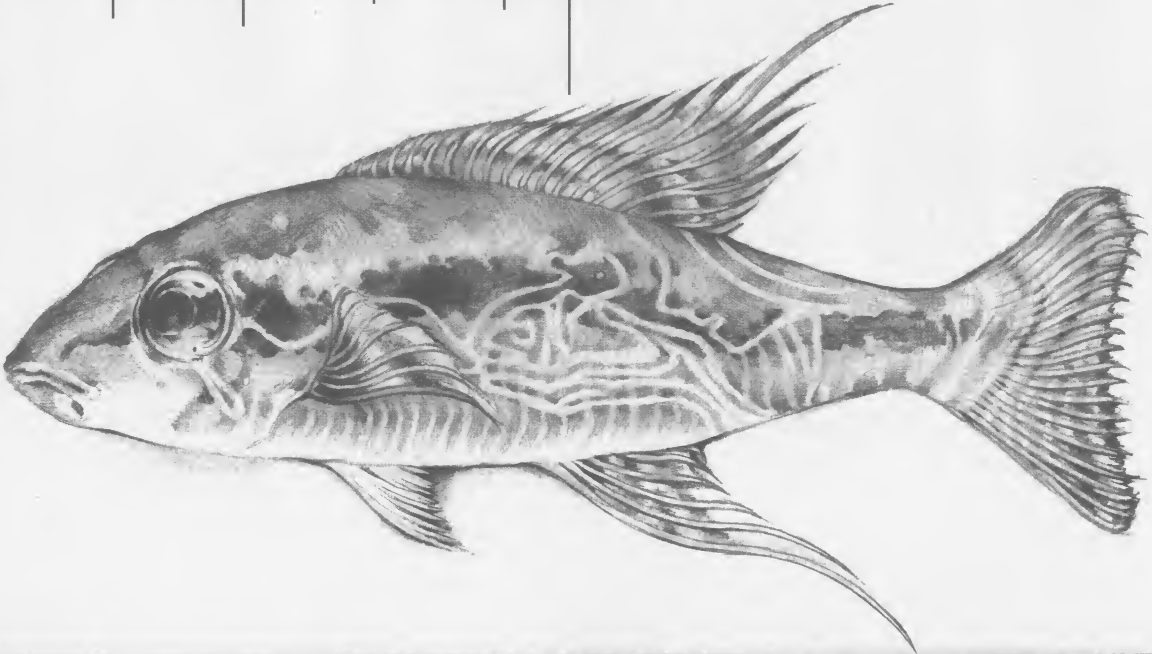

MARDOCK
SCRAMBLE

Chapter 12: Piston (2)

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MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

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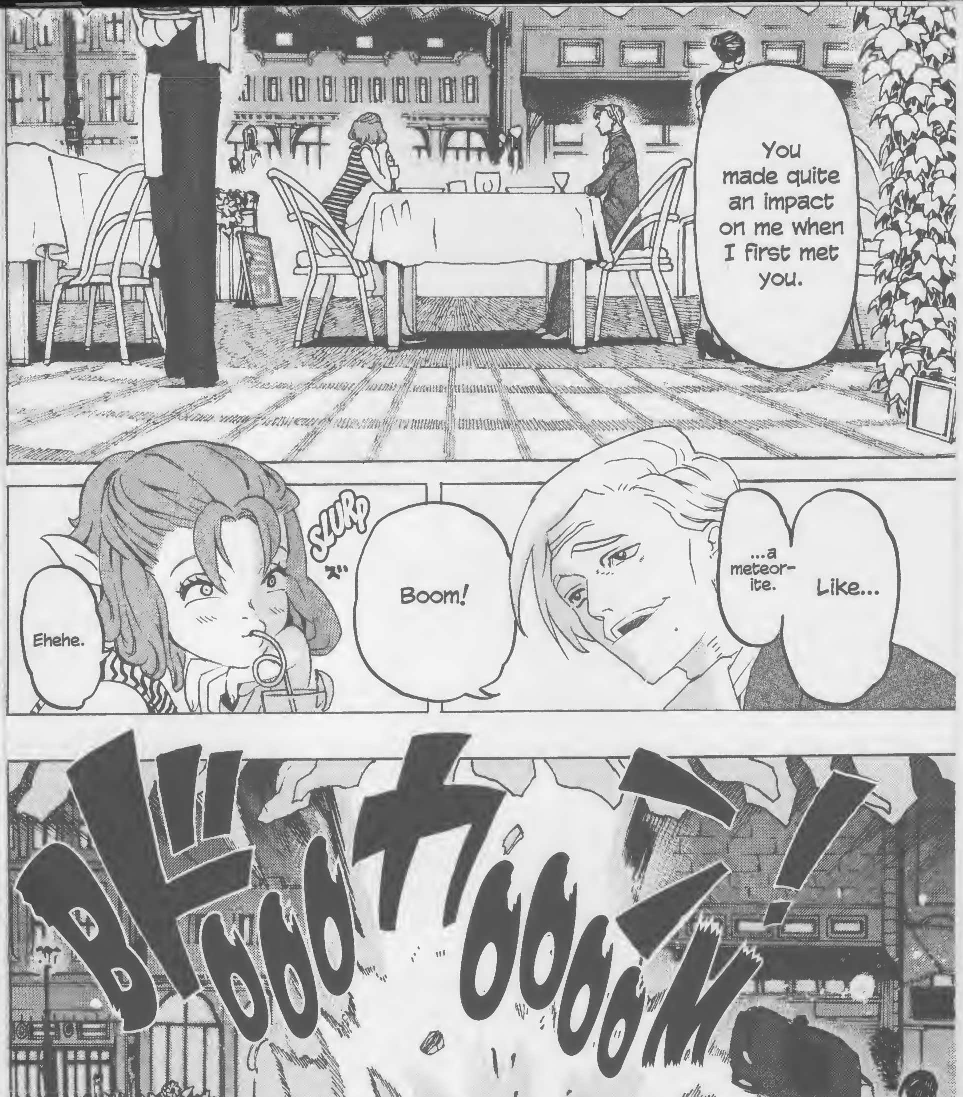
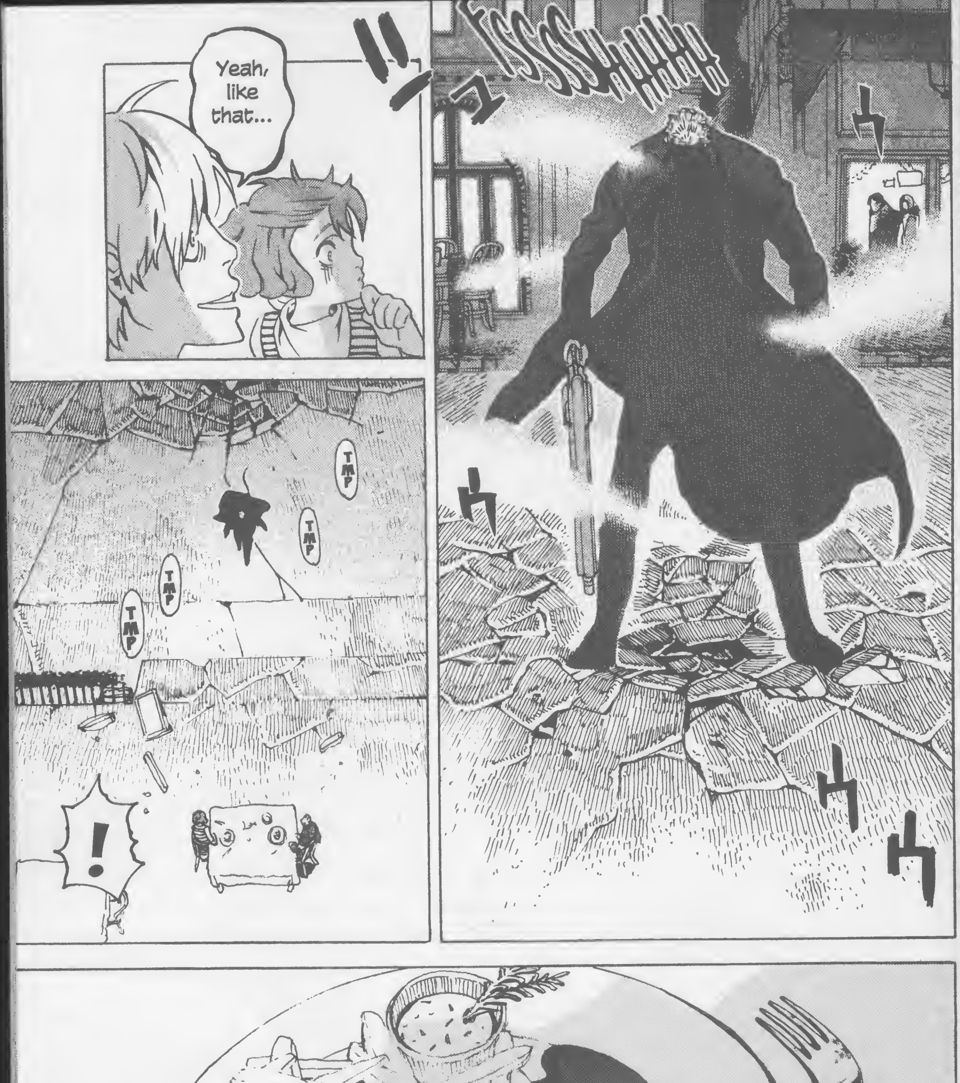
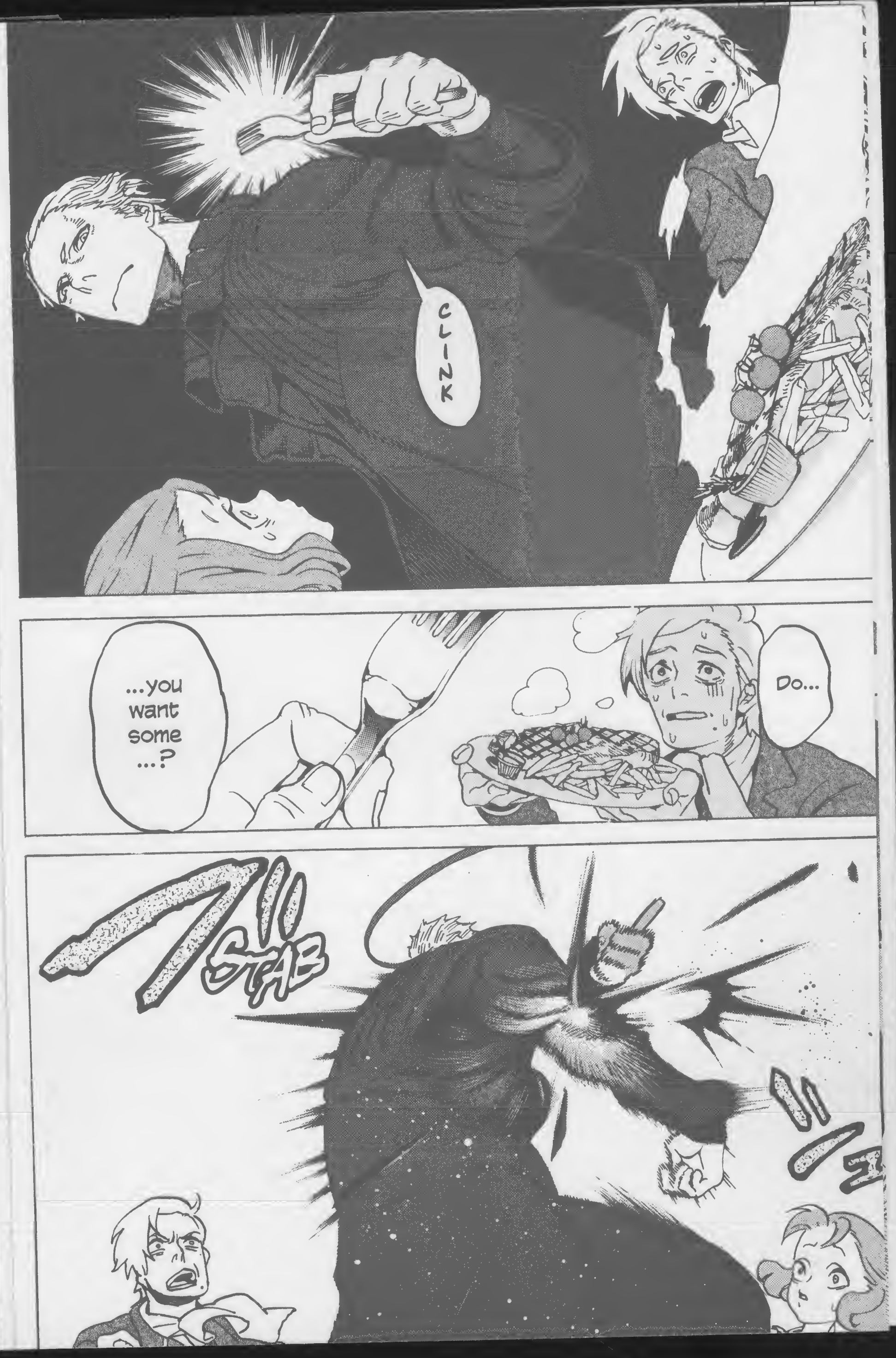
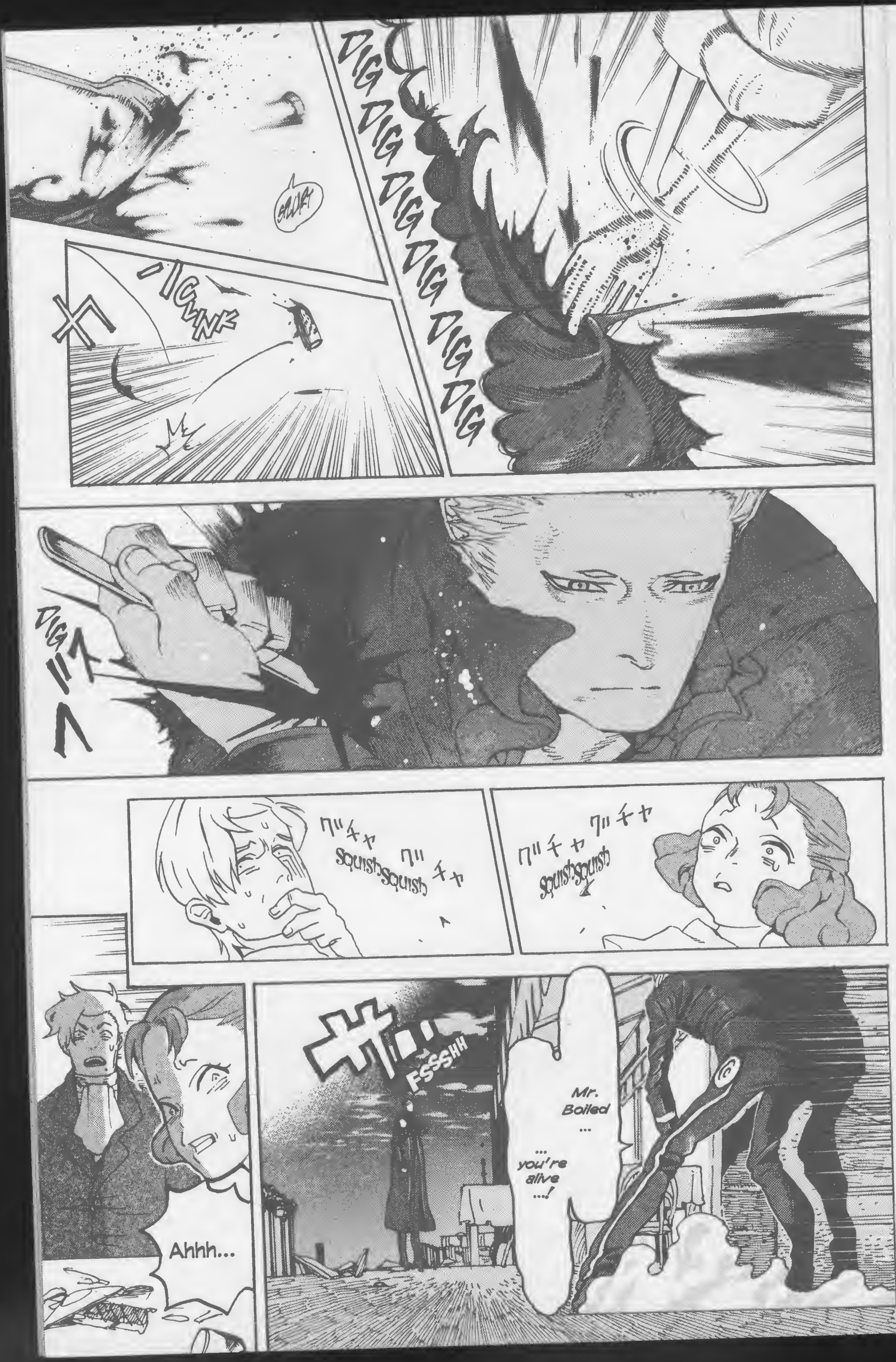
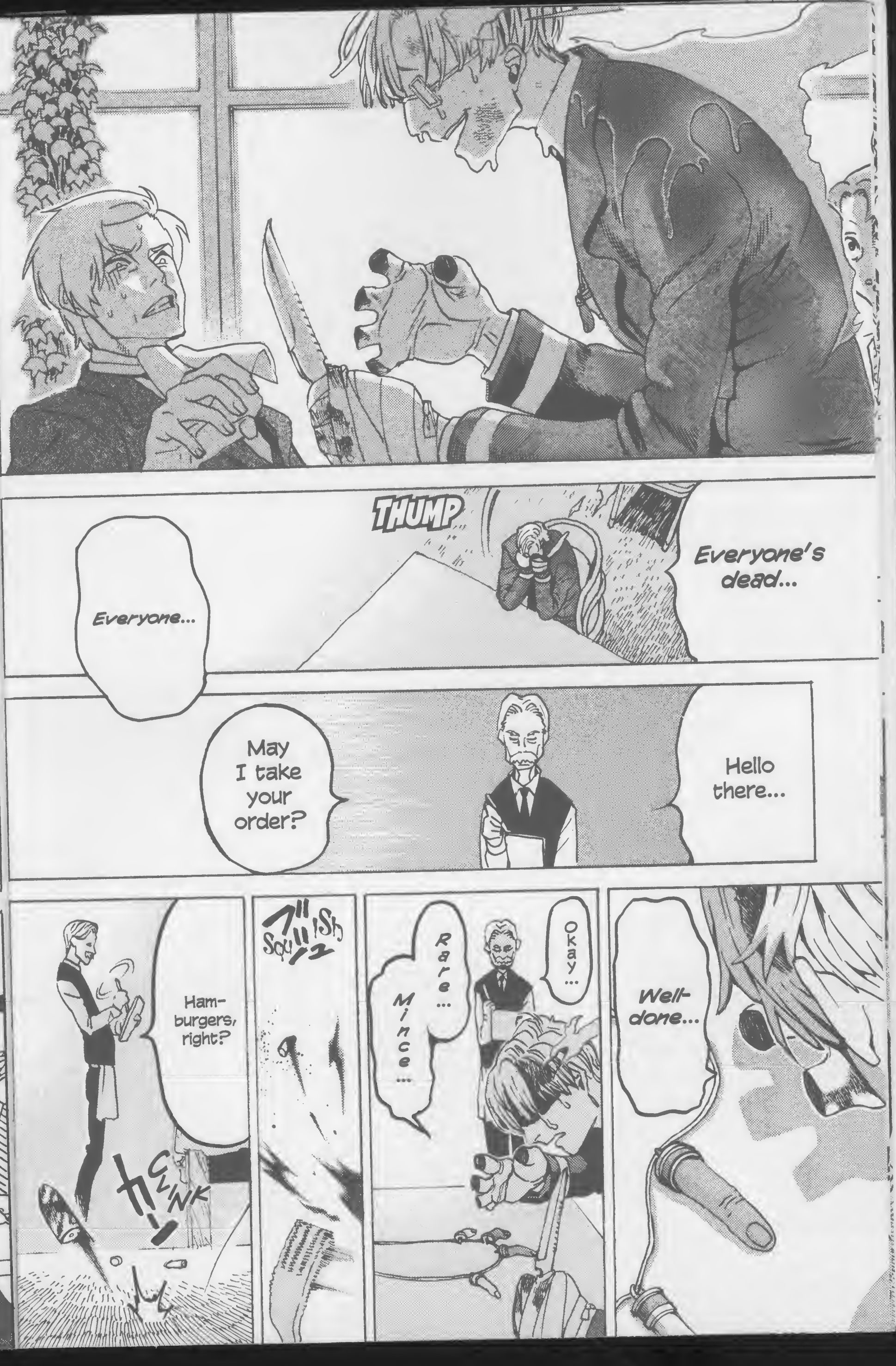
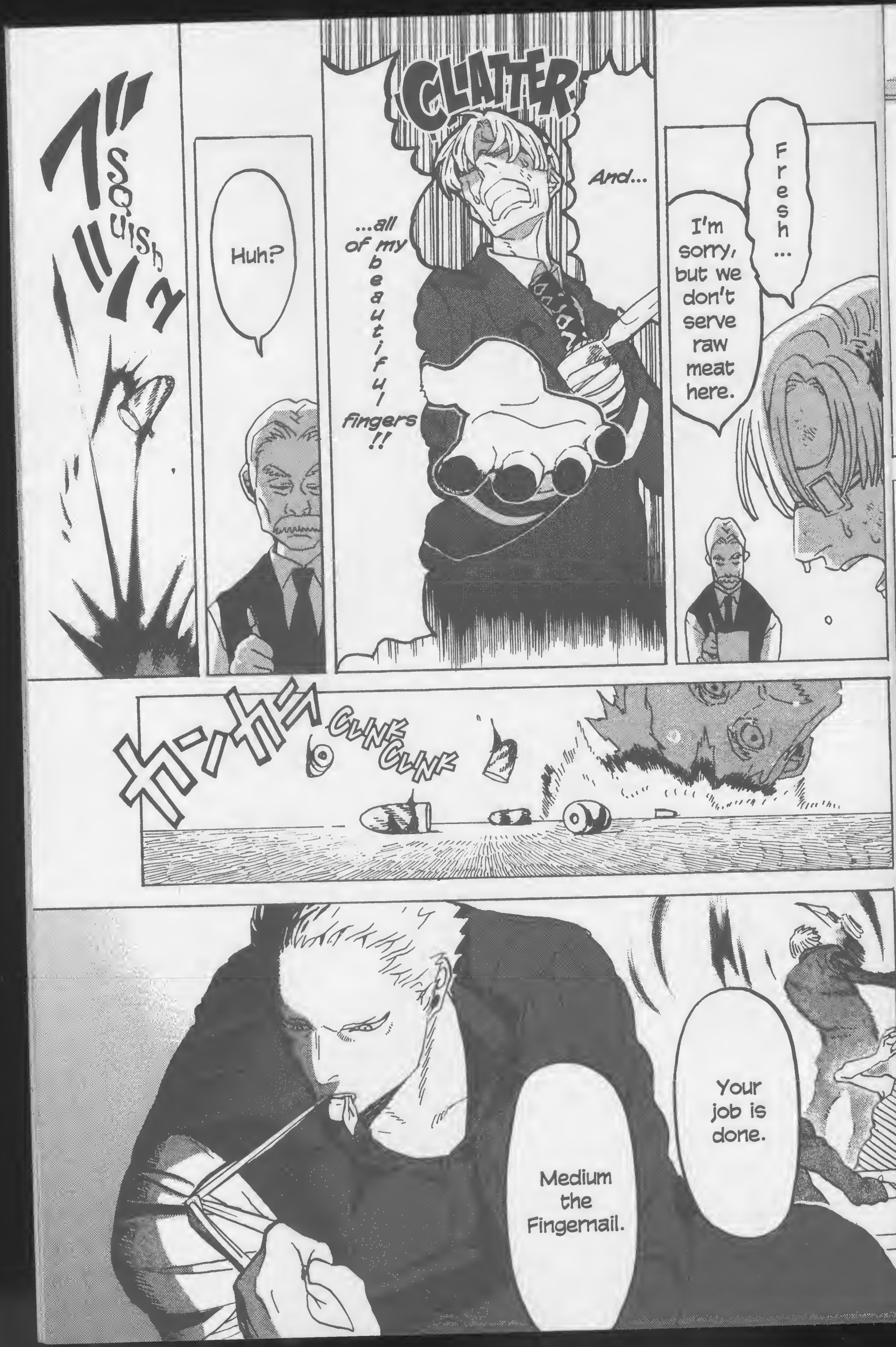

You made quite an impact on me when I first met you.
Like...
...a meteor-ite.
Boom!
SLURP
ズ
Ehehe.
BドOOOナOOOOMン!
Kyaa!

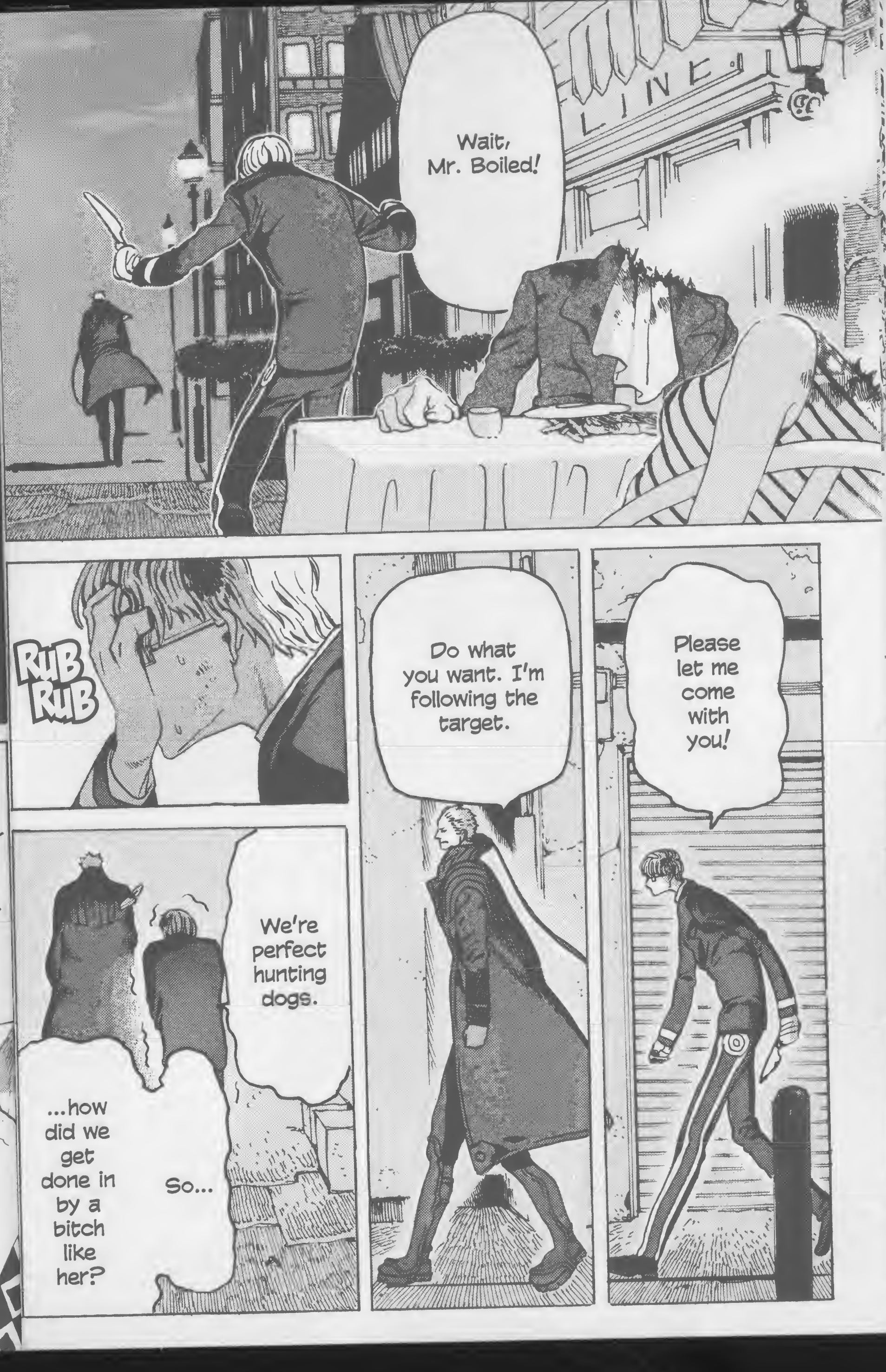

FSSSHHHHH
!!
Yeah, like that...
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
!

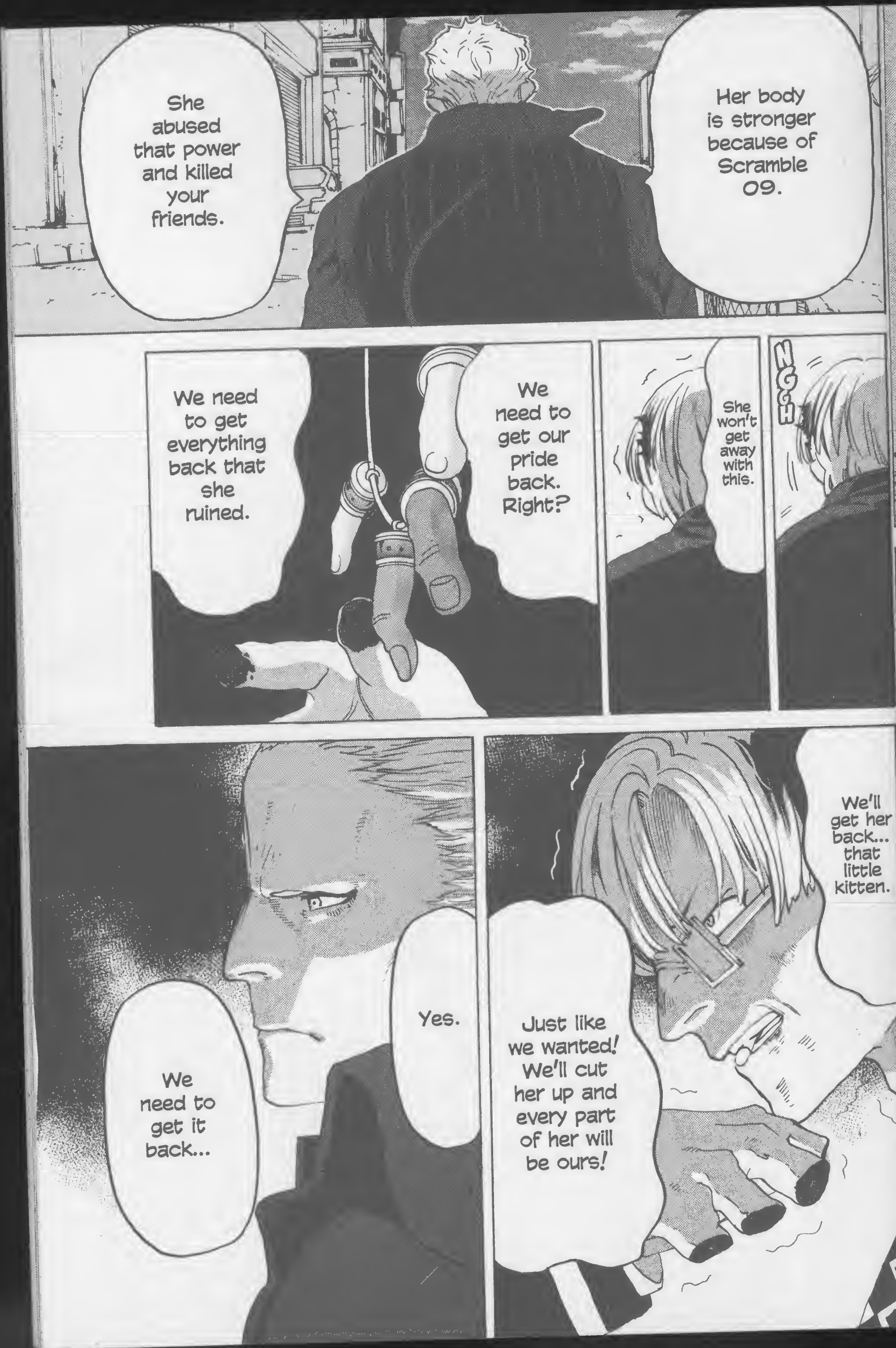

CLINK
Do...
...you want some ...?
STAB

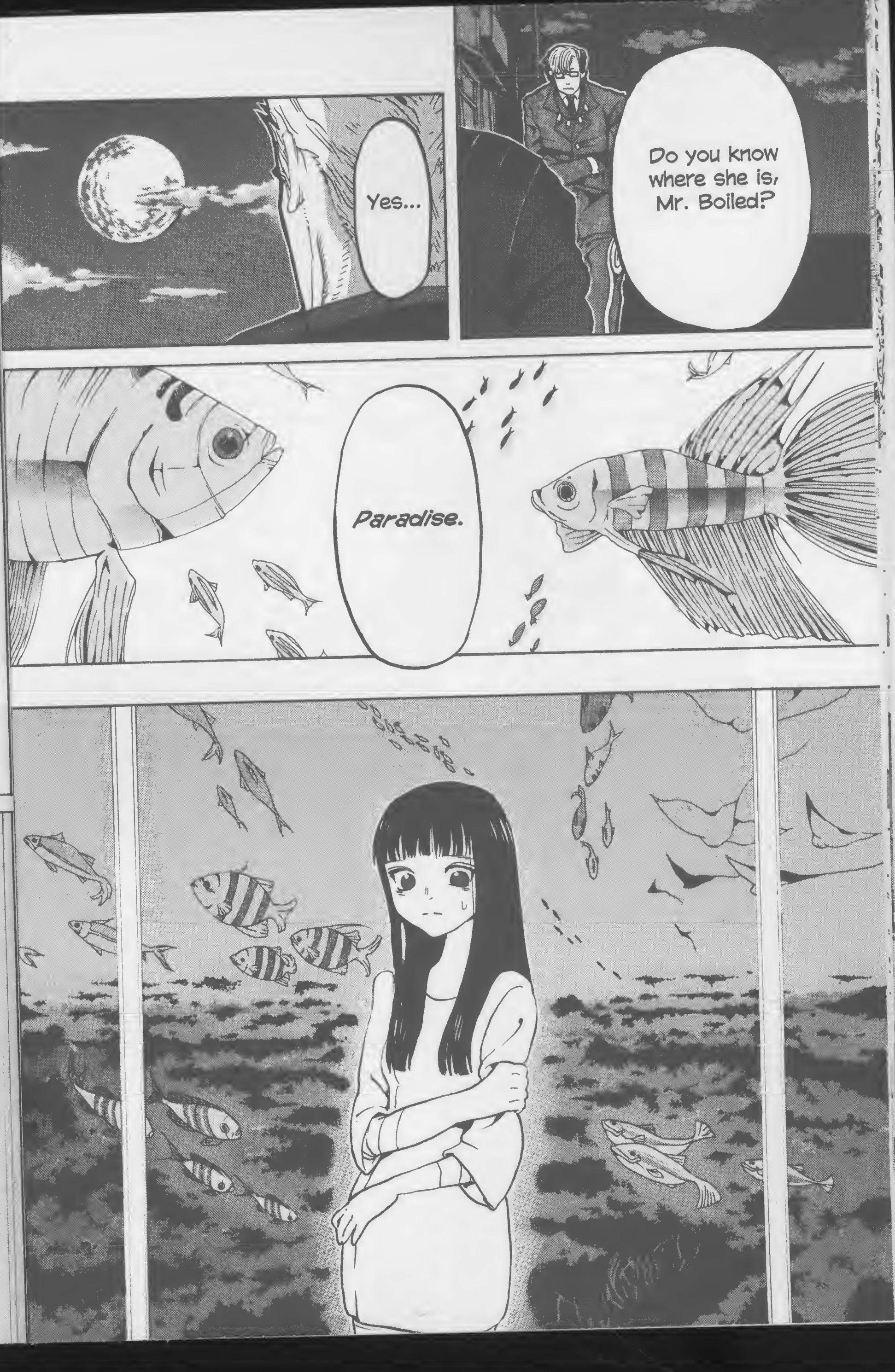

DIG DIG DIG DIG DIG DIG
CLINK
DIG
squishsquish
squishsquish
Mr. Boiled ...
... you're alive ...!
FSSSHH
Ahhh...

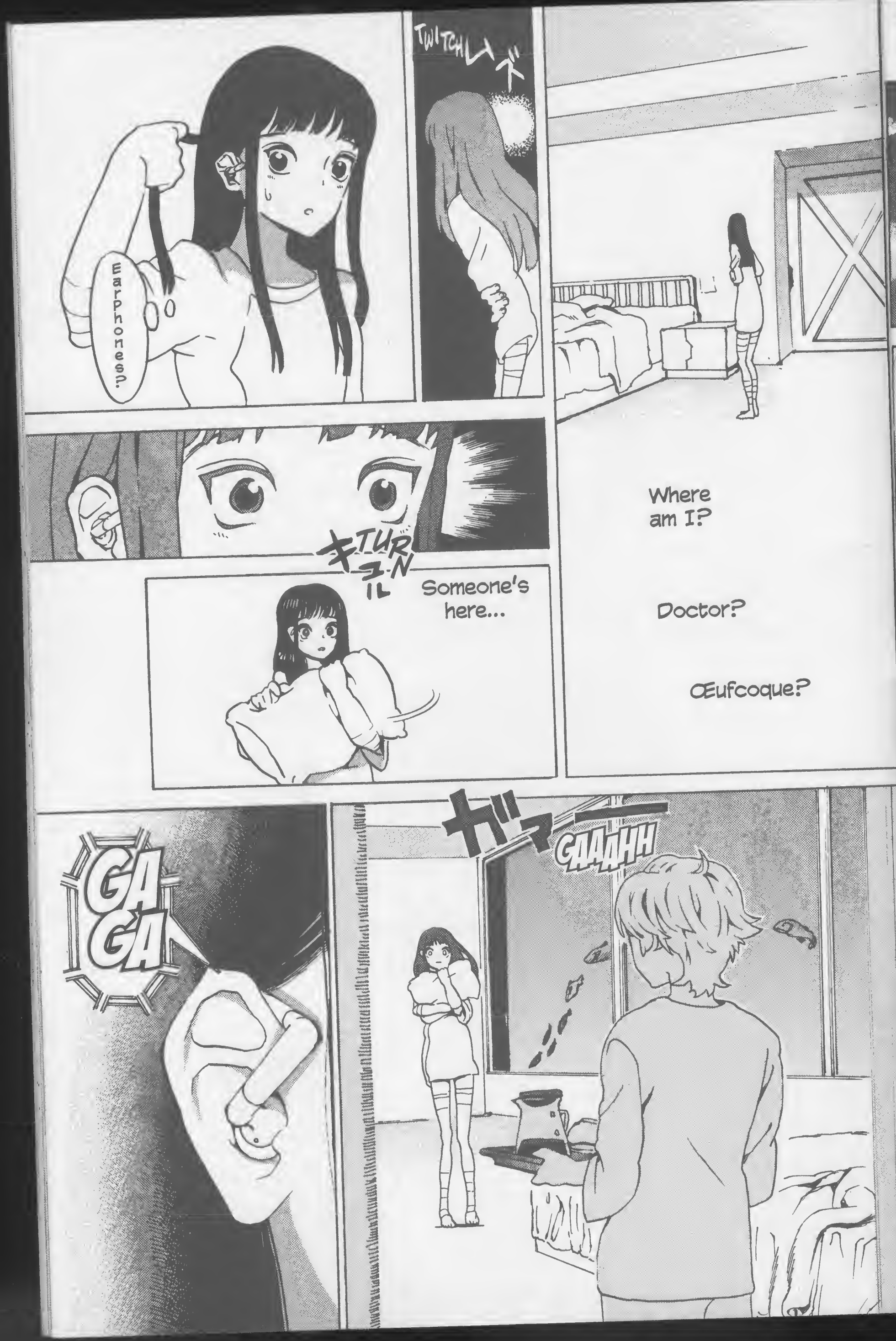

THUMP
Everyone's dead...
Everyone...
Hello there...
May I take your order?
Well-done...
Okay...
Rare...
Mince...
SQUISH
Hamburgers, right?
CLINK

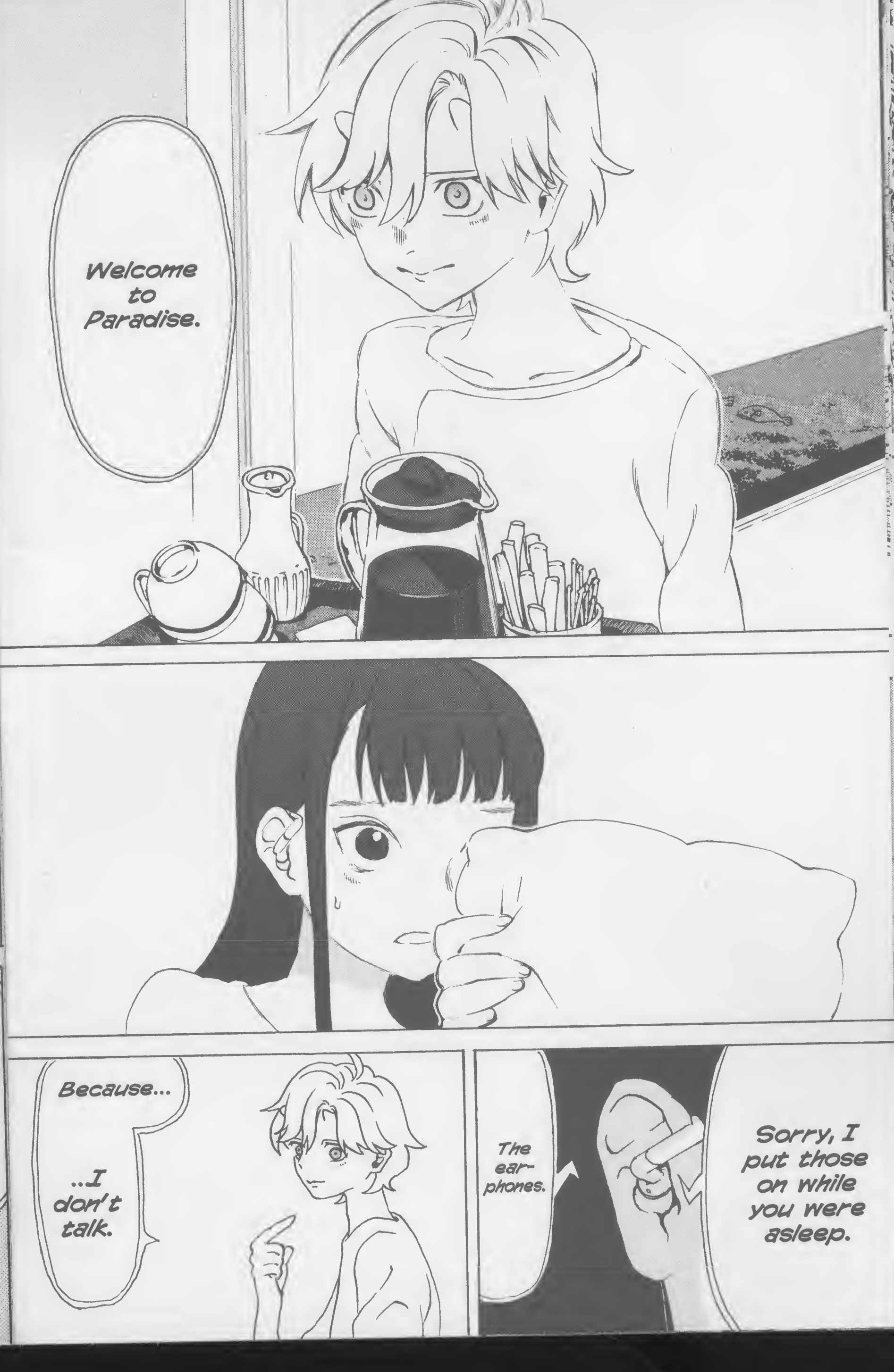

Fresh...
I'm sorry, but we don't serve raw meat here.
And...
CLATTER
...all of my beautiful fingers!!
Huh?
SQUISH
CLINK CLINK
Your job is done.
Medium the Fingernail.

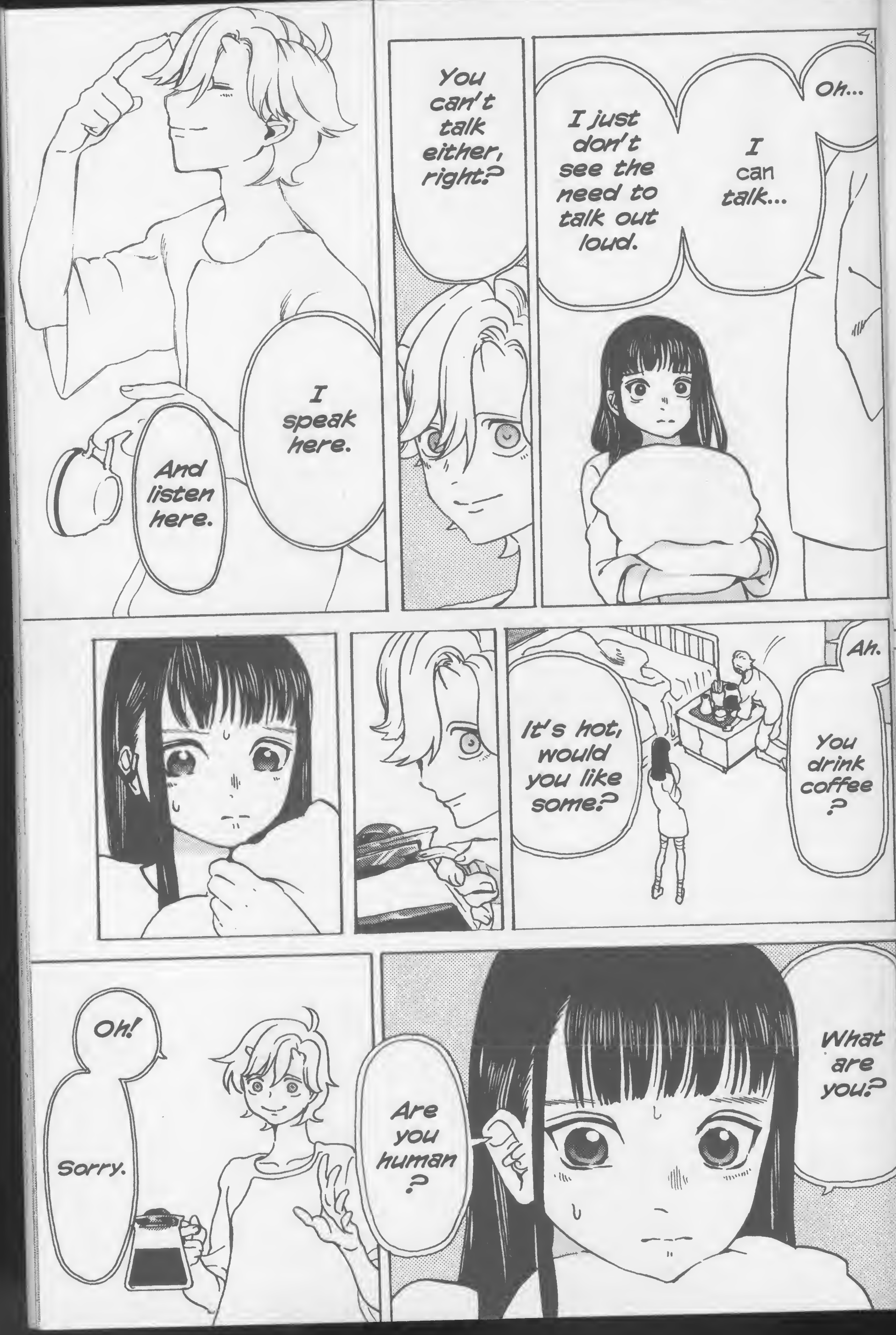

Wait, Mr. Boiled!
Please let me come with you!
Do what you want. I'm following the target.
RUB RUB
We're perfect hunting dogs.
So...
...how did we get done in by a bitch like her?

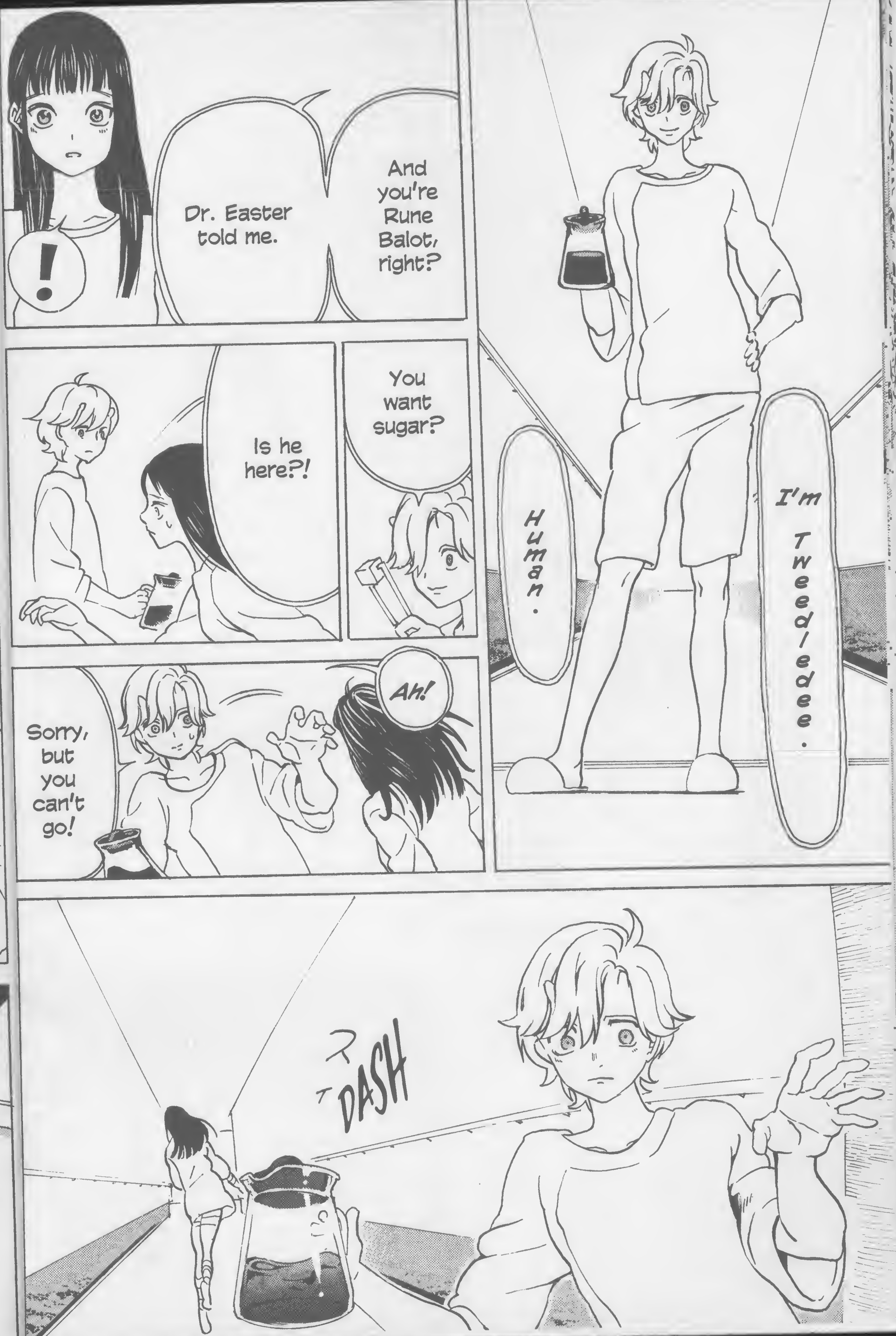

Her body is stronger because of Scramble 09.
She abused that power and killed your friends.
NGGH
She won't get away with this.
We need to get our pride back. Right?
We need to get everything back that she ruined.
We'll get her back... that little kitten.
Just like we wanted! We'll cut her up and every part of her will be ours!
Yes.
We need to get it back...

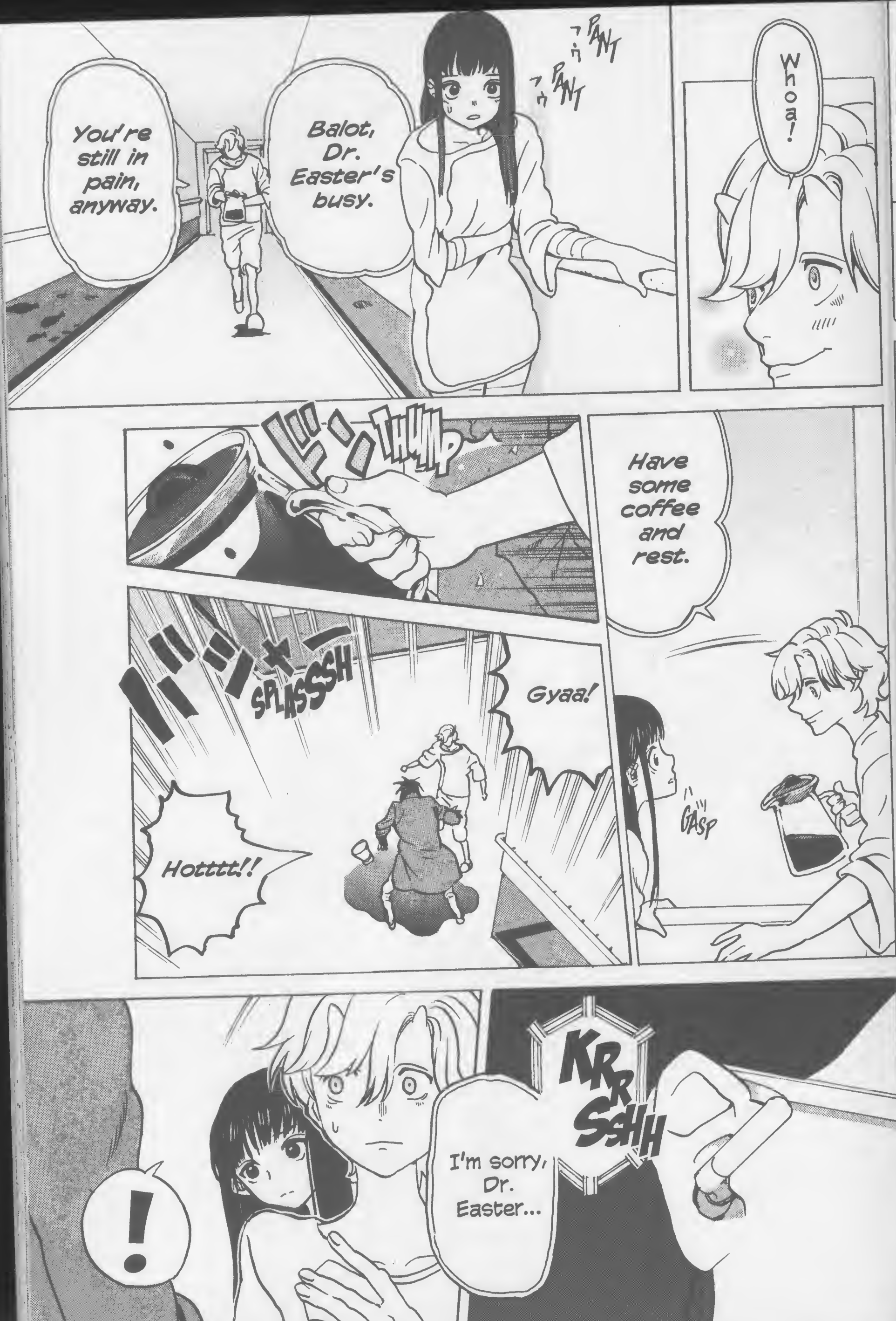

Do you know where she is, Mr. Boiled?
Yes...
Paradise.

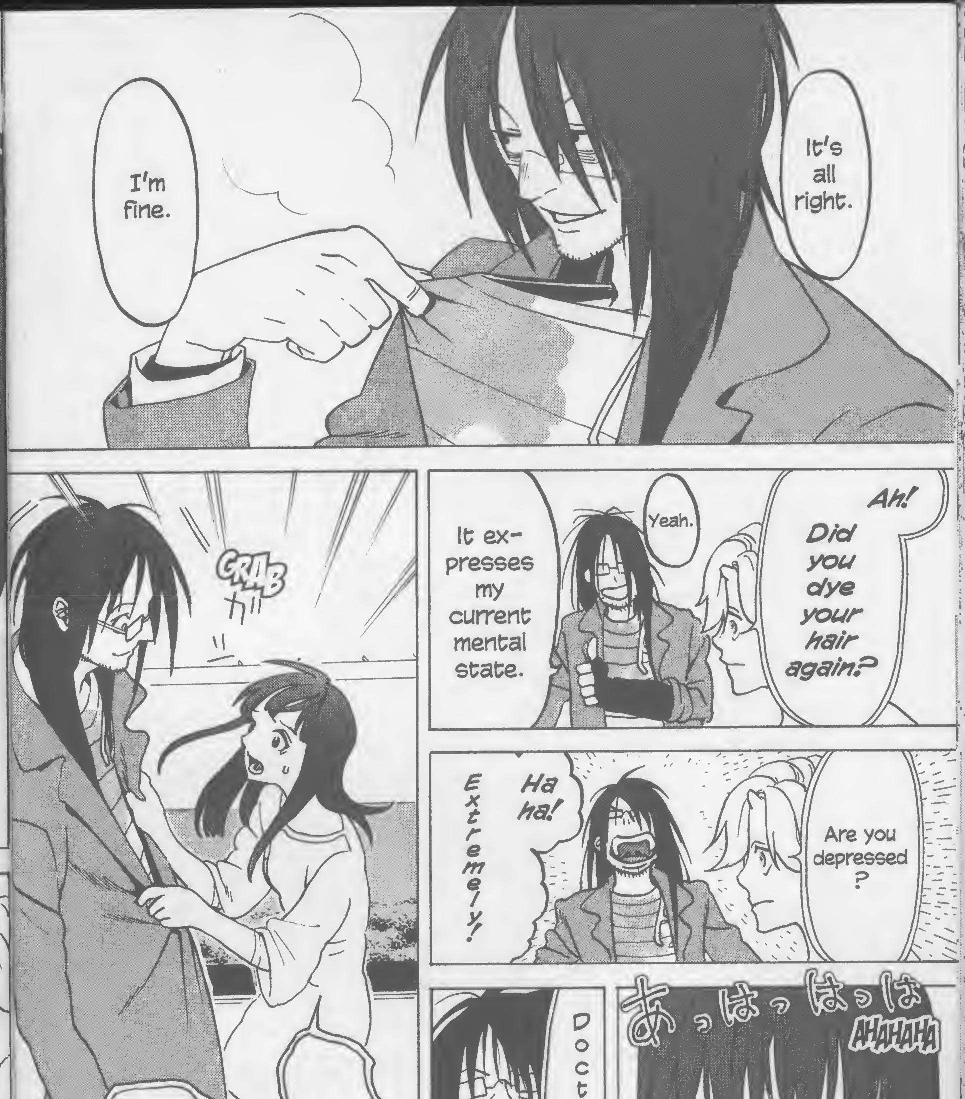

Where am I?
Doctor?
Œufcoque?
TWITCH
Earphones?
TURN
Someone's here...
GAAAHH
GA GA

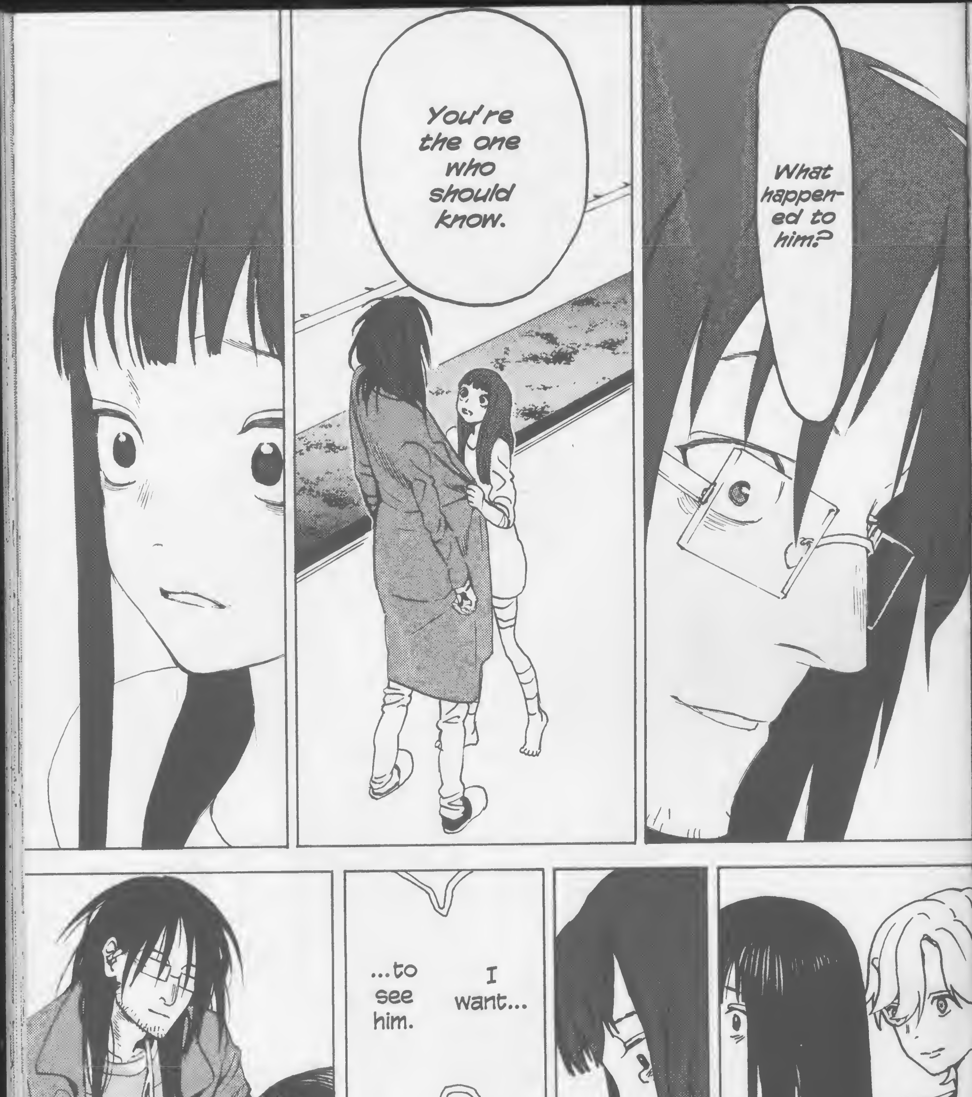

Welcome to Paradise.
Sorry, I put those on while you were asleep.
The ear-phones.
Because...
...I don't talk.

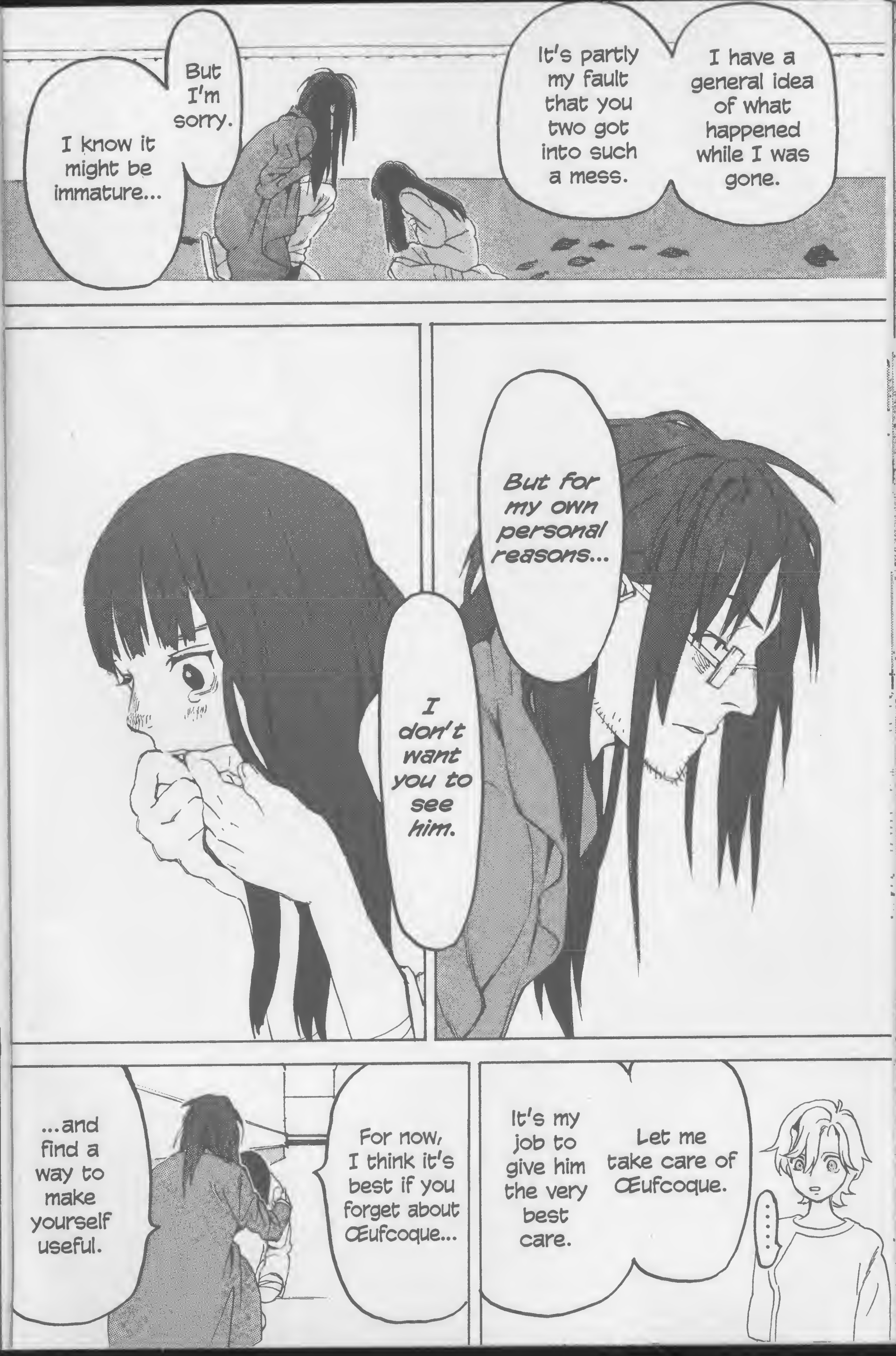

Oh...
I can talk...
I just don't see the need to talk out loud.
You can't talk either, right?
I speak here.
And listen here.
Ah.
You drink coffee?
It's hot, would you like some?
What are you?
Are you human?
Oh!
Sorry.

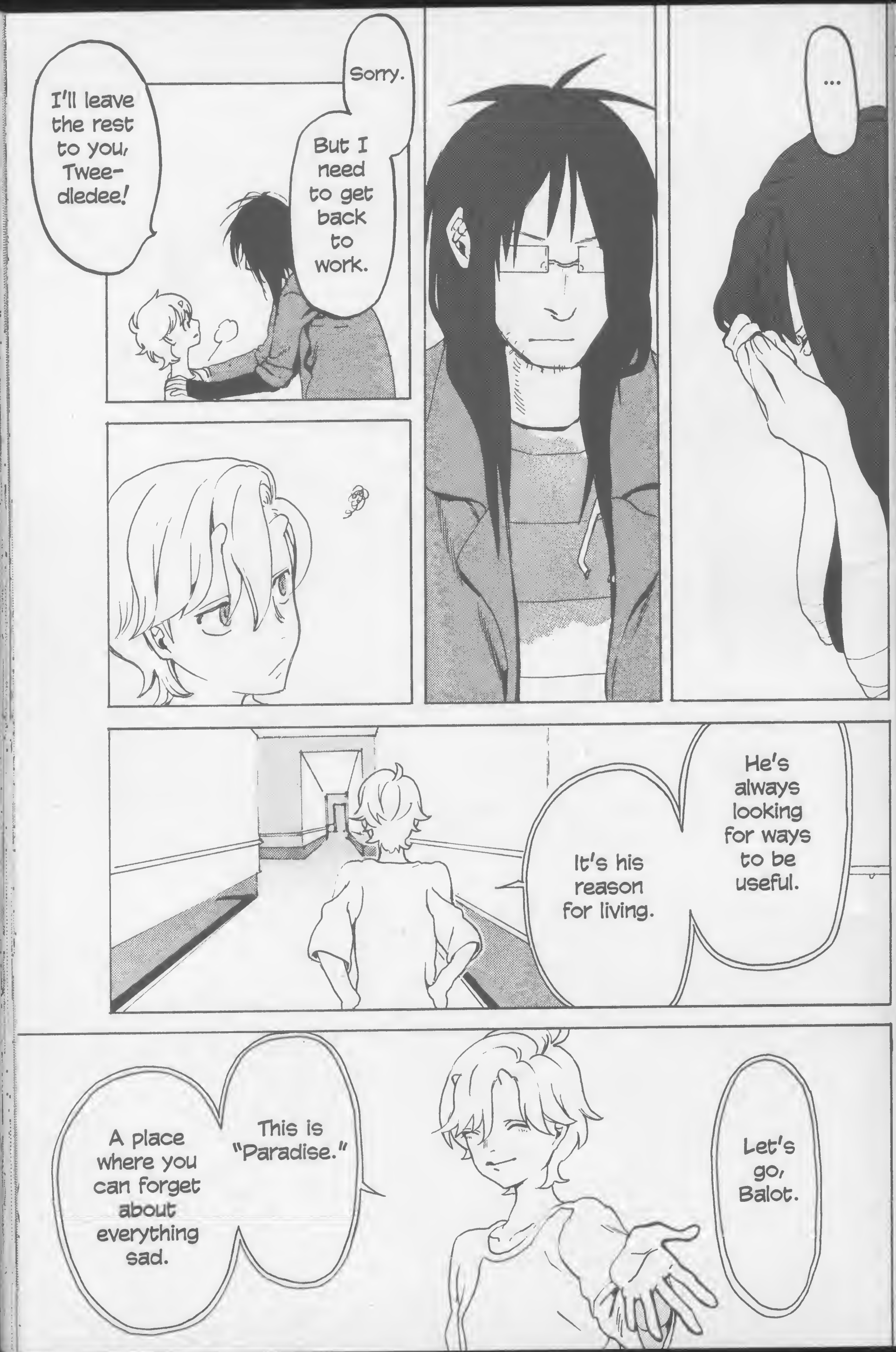

I'm Tweedledee.
Human.
And you're Rune Balot, right?
Dr. Easter told me.
!
You want sugar?
Is he here?!
Ah!
Sorry, but you can't go!
DASH

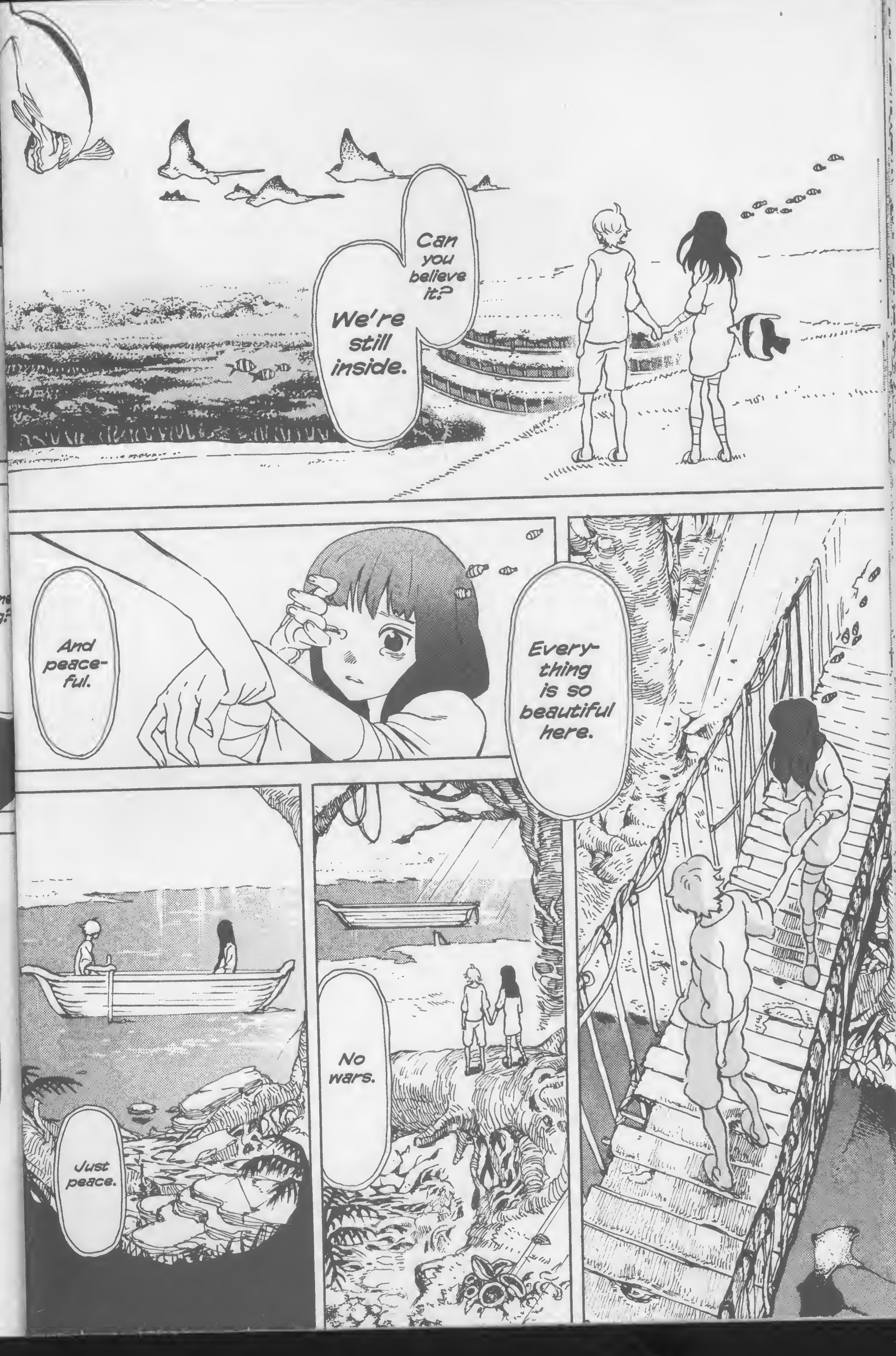

Whoa!
PANT
PANT
Balot, Dr. Easter's busy.
You're still in pain, anyway.
Have some coffee and rest.
GASP
THUMP
Gyaa!
SPLASSSH
Hotttt!!
KRRSSHH
I'm sorry, Dr. Easter...
!

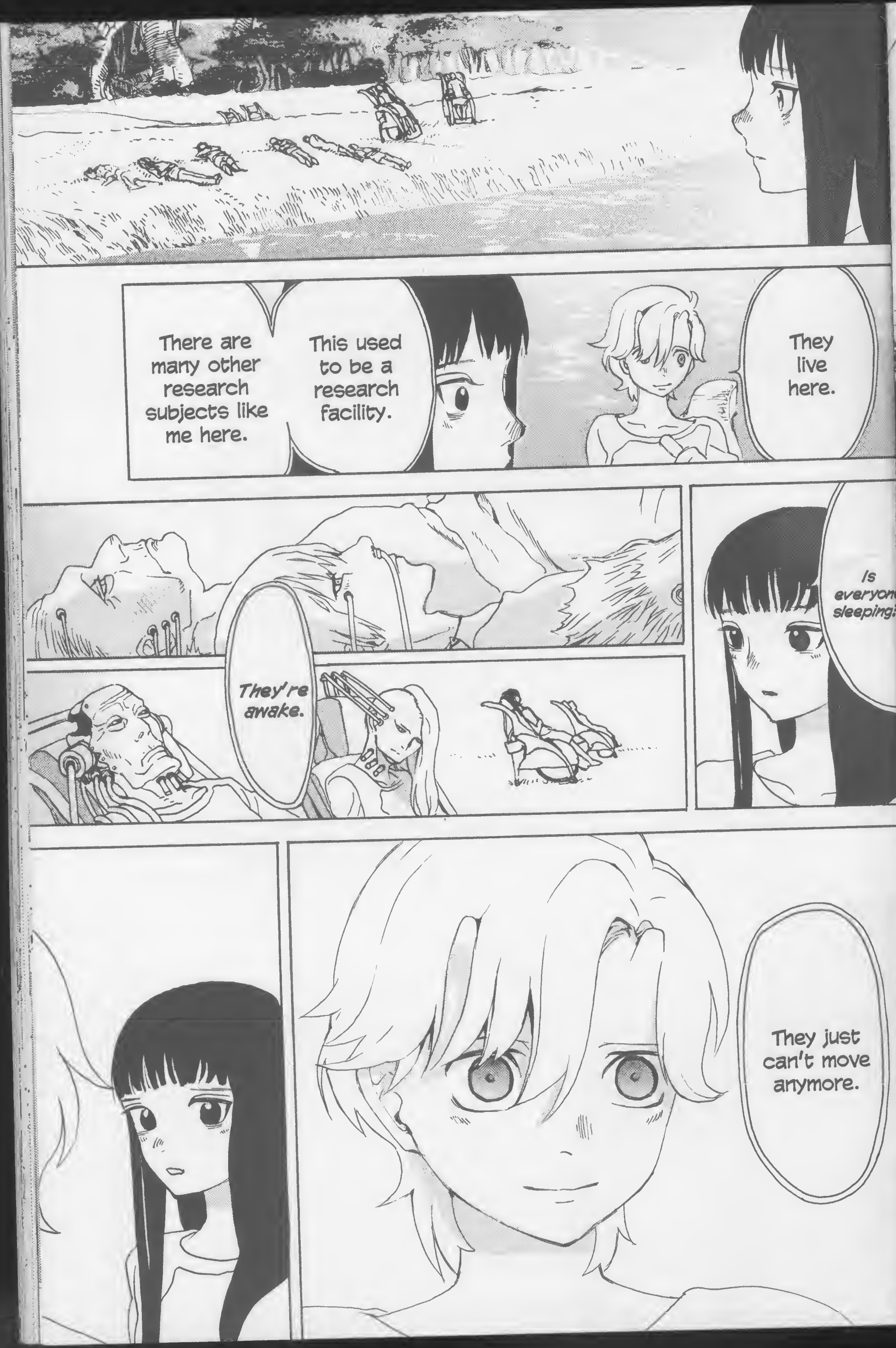

It's all right.
I'm fine.
Ah! Did you dye your hair again?
Yeah.
It expresses my current mental state.
Are you depressed?
Ha ha!
Extremely!
あっはっはっは
AHAHAHA
Doctor!
Hm?
GRAB
ガッ
Where's Œufcoque?
What happened to him?

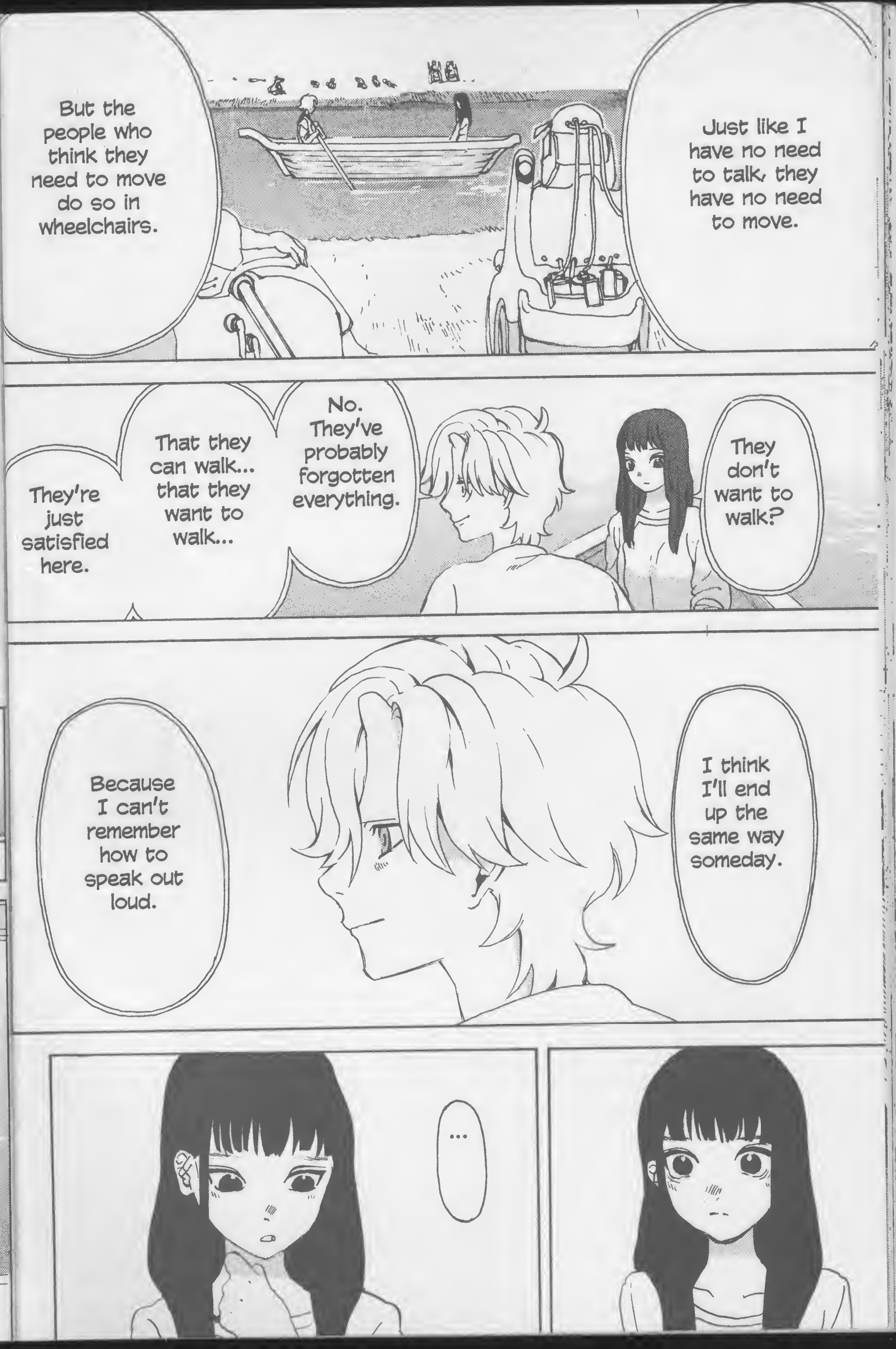

What happened to him?
You're the one who should know.
Œufcoque is undergoing maintenance.
He lost the lower half of his body, so it's been difficult.
I want...
...to see him.
You can't, Balot.

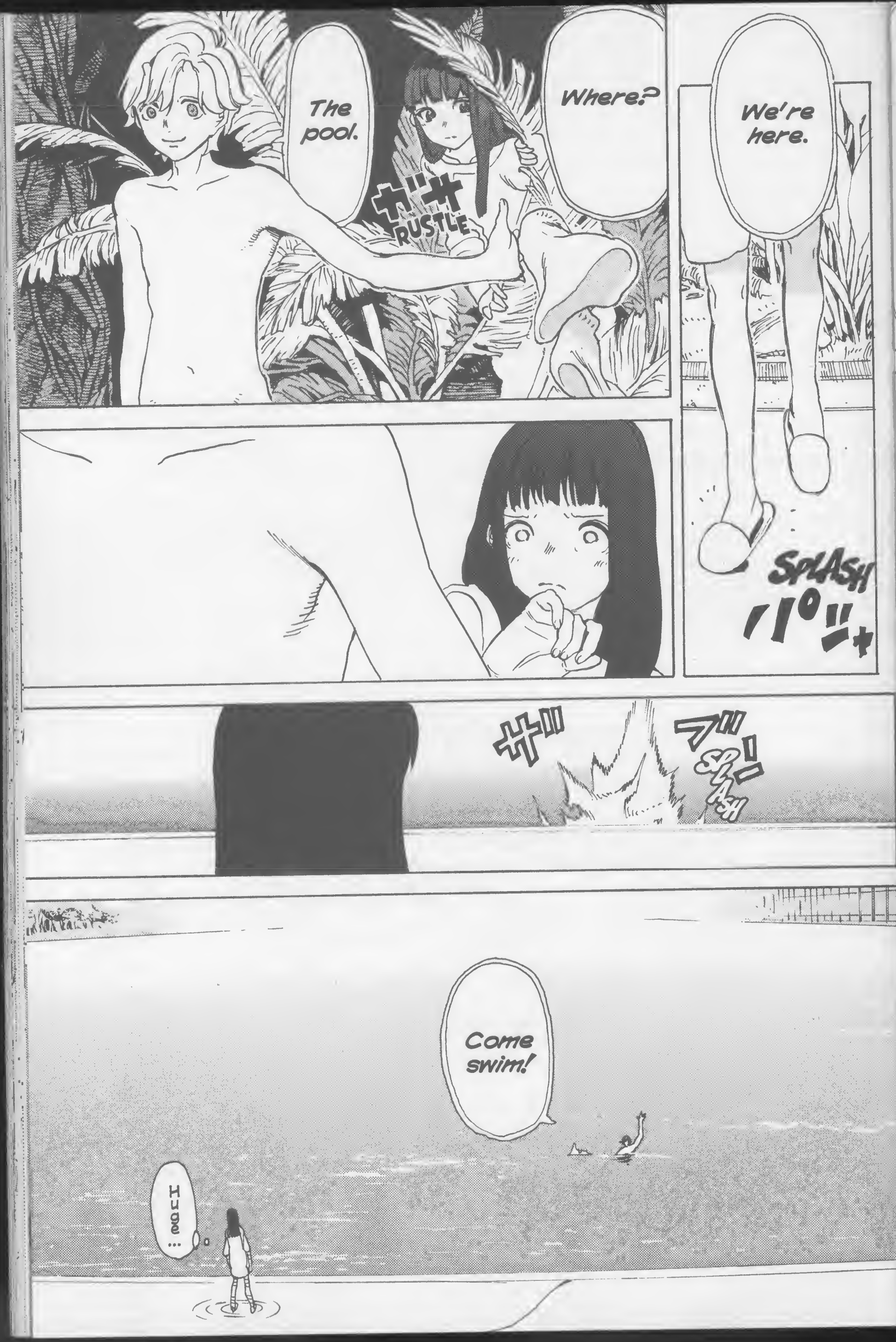

I have a general idea of what happened while I was gone.
It's partly my fault that you two got into such a mess.
But I'm sorry.
I know it might be immature...
But for my own personal reasons...
I don't want you to see him.
Let me take care of Œufcoque.
It's my job to give him the very best care.
...
For now, I think it's best if you forget about Œufcoque...
...and find a way to make yourself useful.

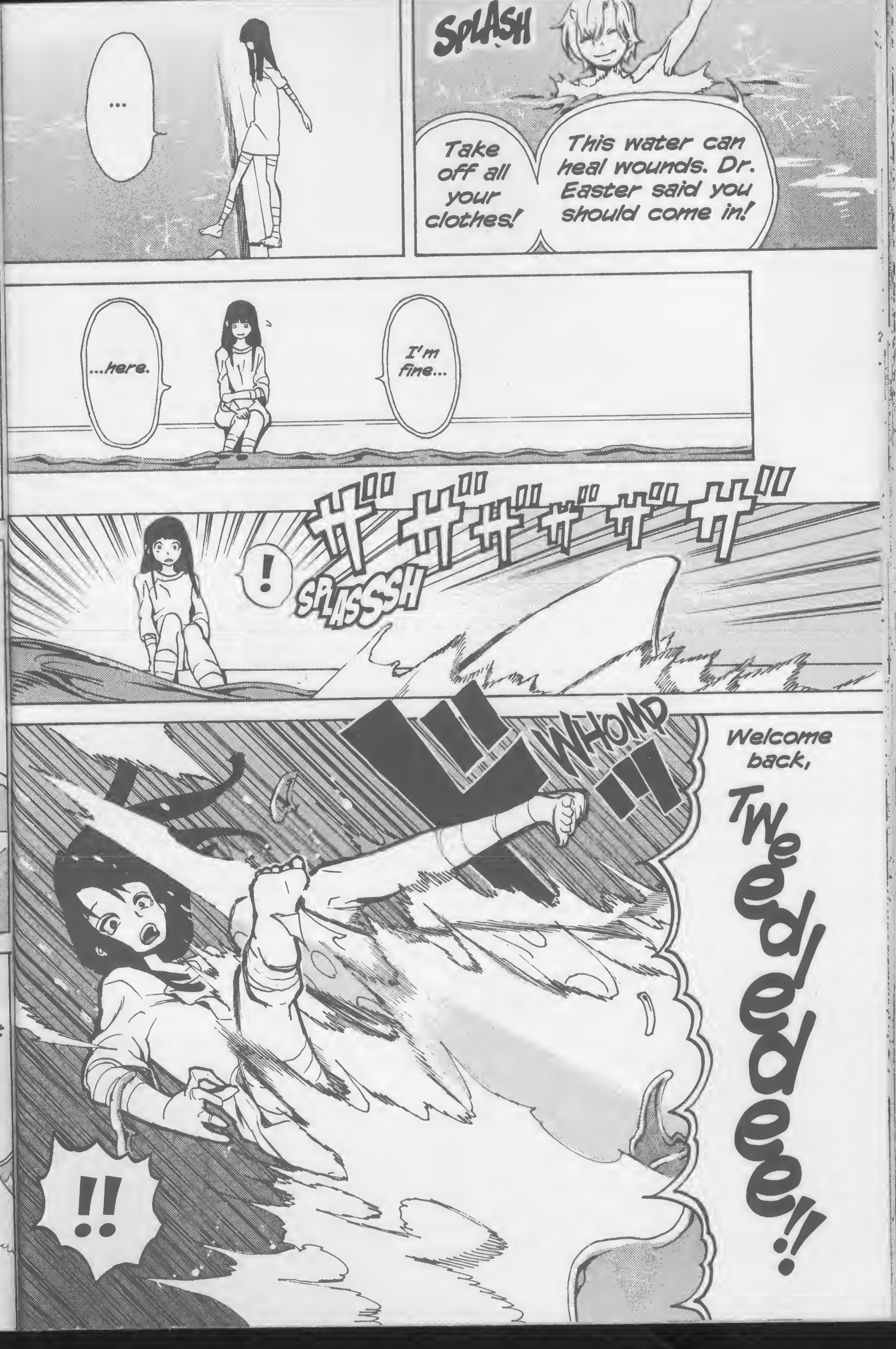

...
Sorry.
But I need to get back to work.
I'll leave the rest to you, Tweedledee!
He's always looking for ways to be useful.
It's his reason for living.
Let's go, Balot.
This is "Paradise."
A place where you can forget about everything sad.

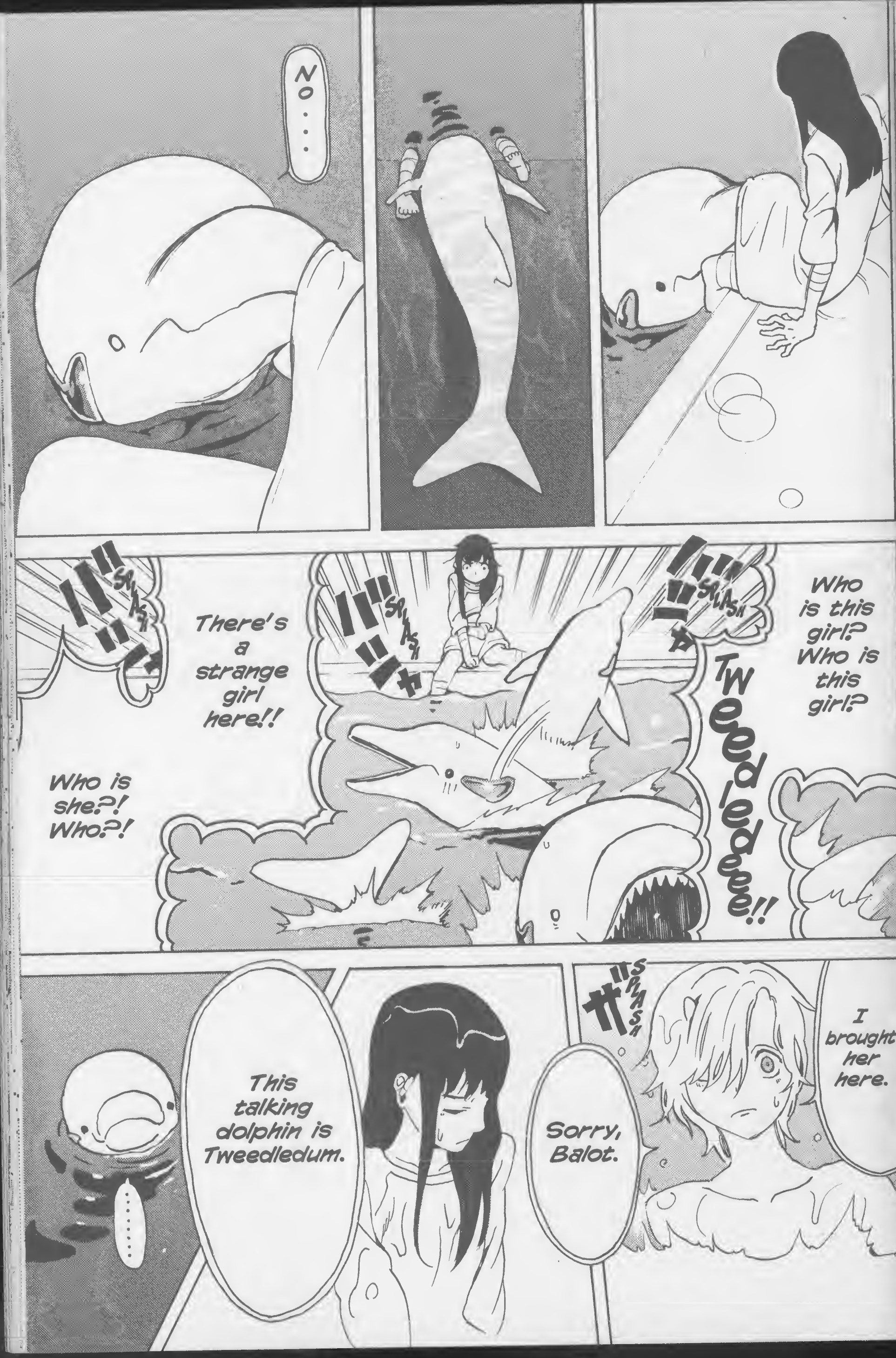

Can you believe it?
We're still inside.
Everything is so beautiful here.
And peaceful.
No wars.
Just peace.

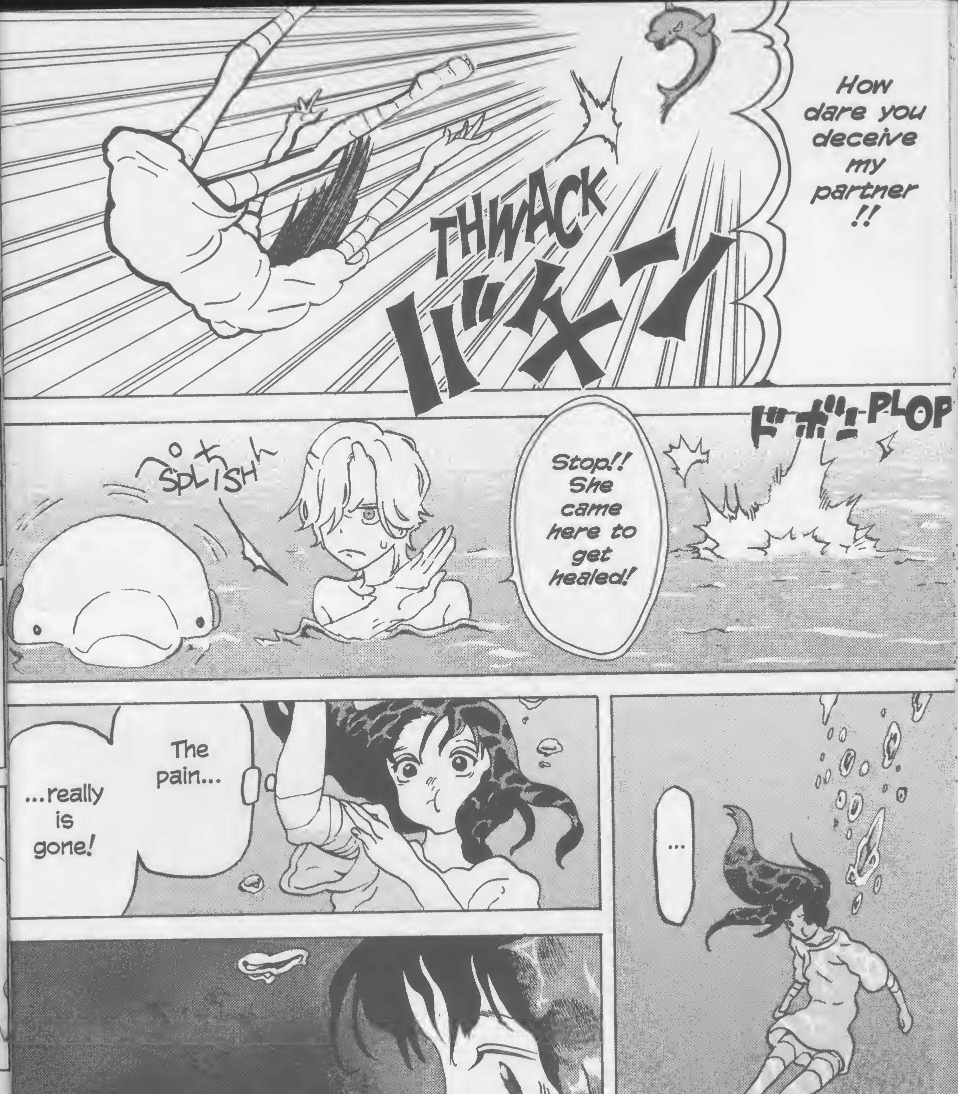

They live here.
This used to be a research facility.
There are many other research subjects like me here.
Is everyone sleeping?
They're awake.
They just can't move anymore.

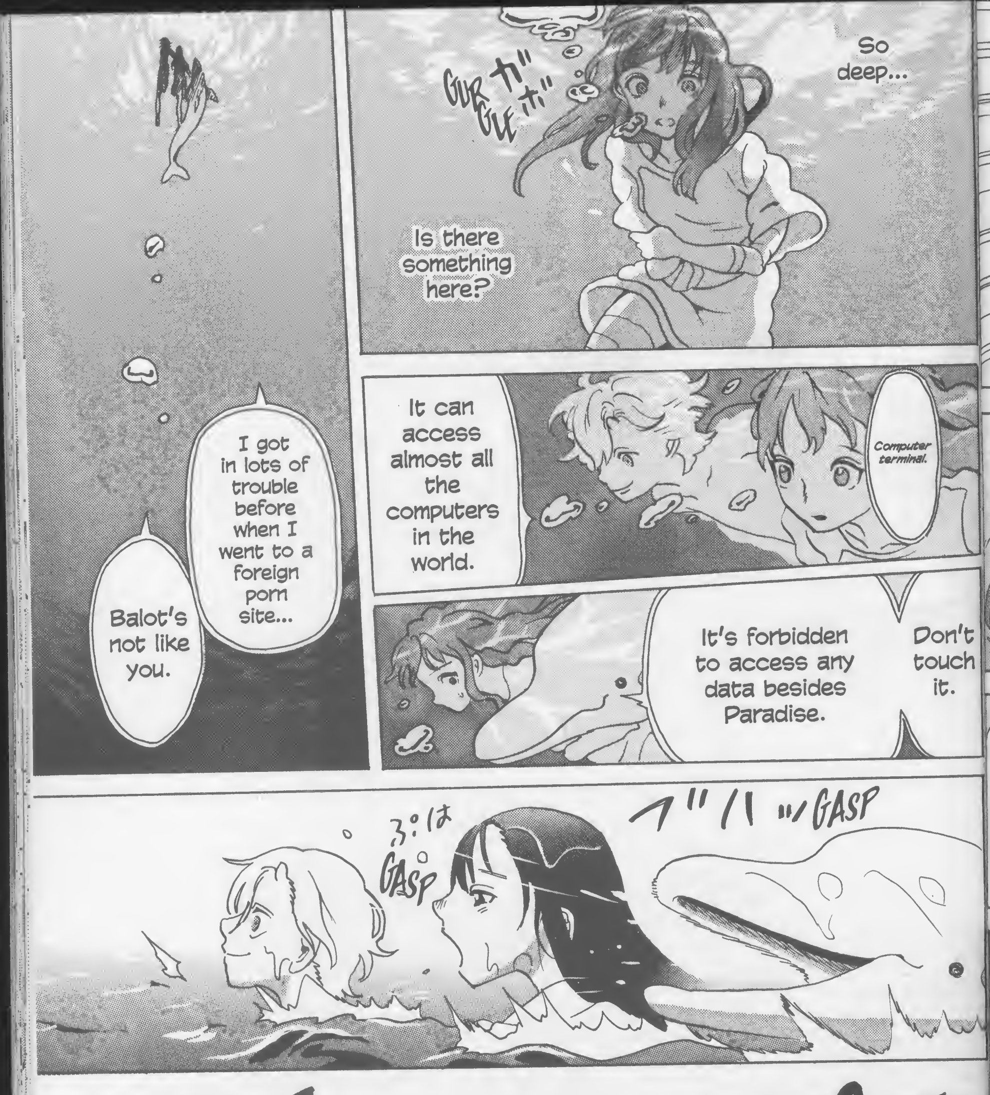

Just like I have no need to talk, they have no need to move.
But the people who think they need to move do so in wheelchairs.
They don't want to walk?
No. They've probably forgotten everything.
That they can walk... that they want to walk...
They're just satisfied here.
I think I'll end up the same way someday.
Because I can't remember how to speak out loud.
...

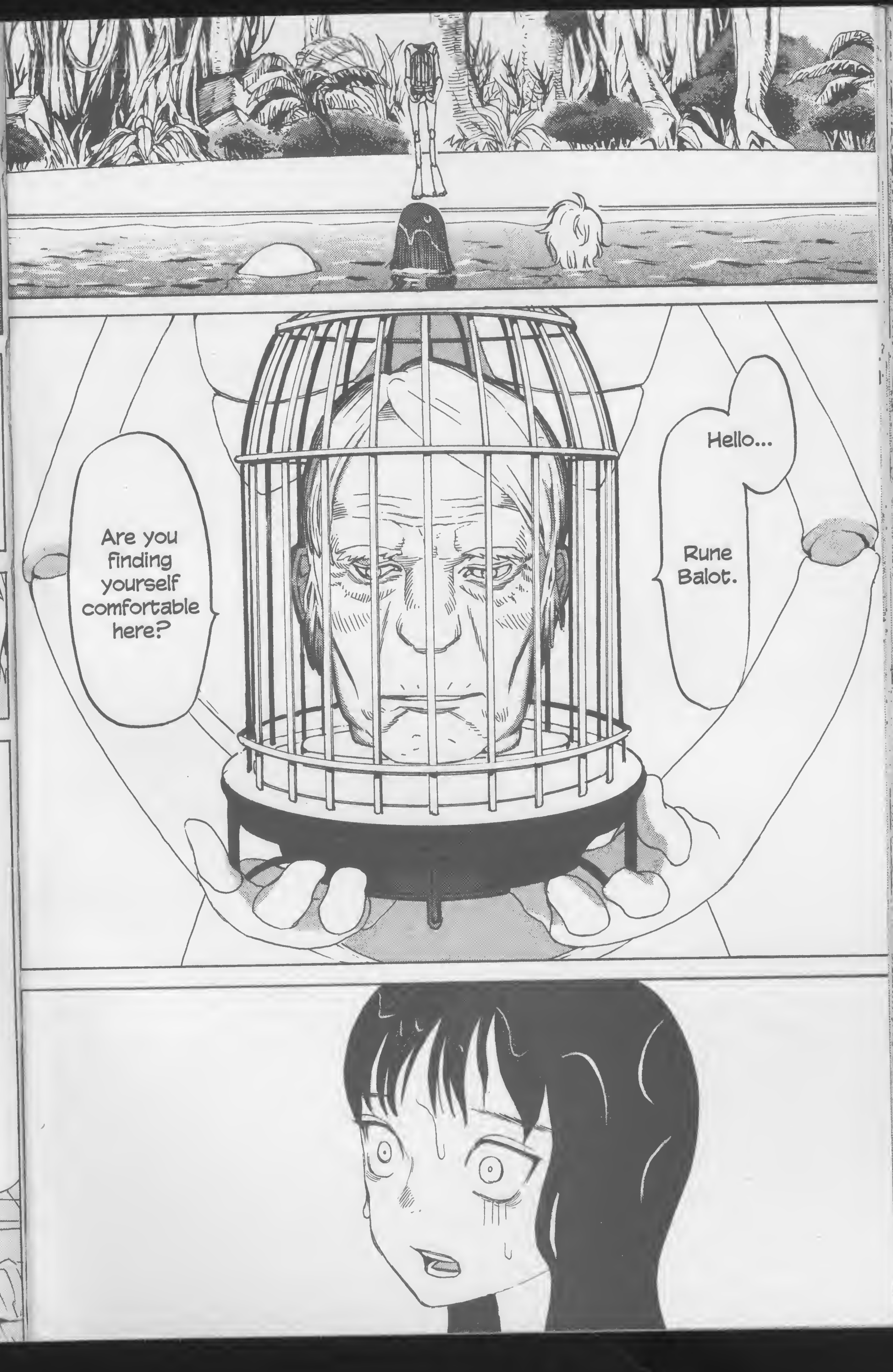

We're here.
Where?
The pool.
ガサ RUSTLE
SPLASH パシャッ
ザブー SPLASH
Come swim!
Huge...

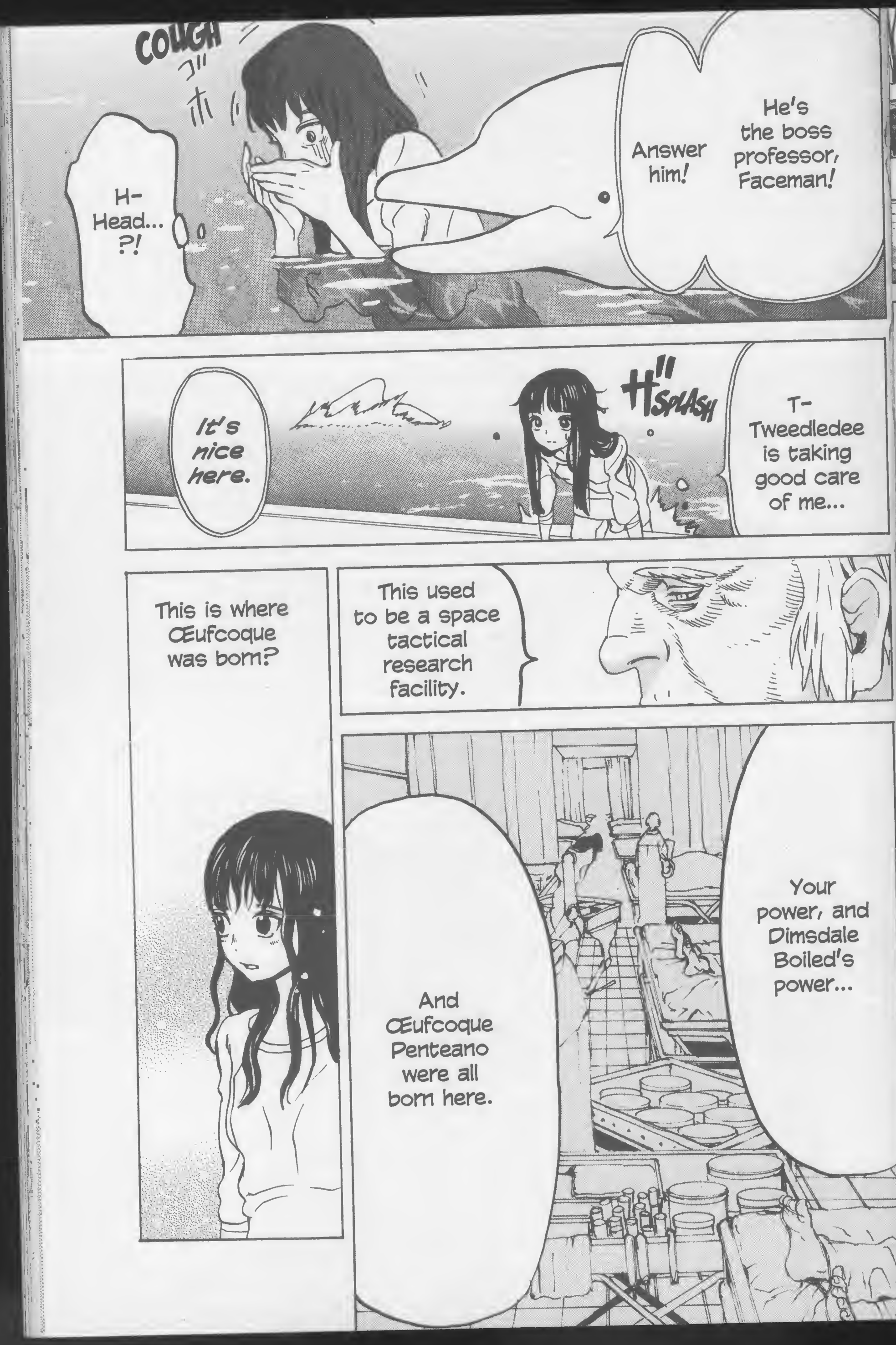

SPLASH
This water can heal wounds. Dr. Easter said you should come in!
Take off all your clothes!
...
I'm fine...
...here.
ザ゛ザ゛ザ゛ザ゛ザ゛ザ゛
SPLASSSH
!
Welcome back, Tweedledeee!!
WHOMP!!
!!

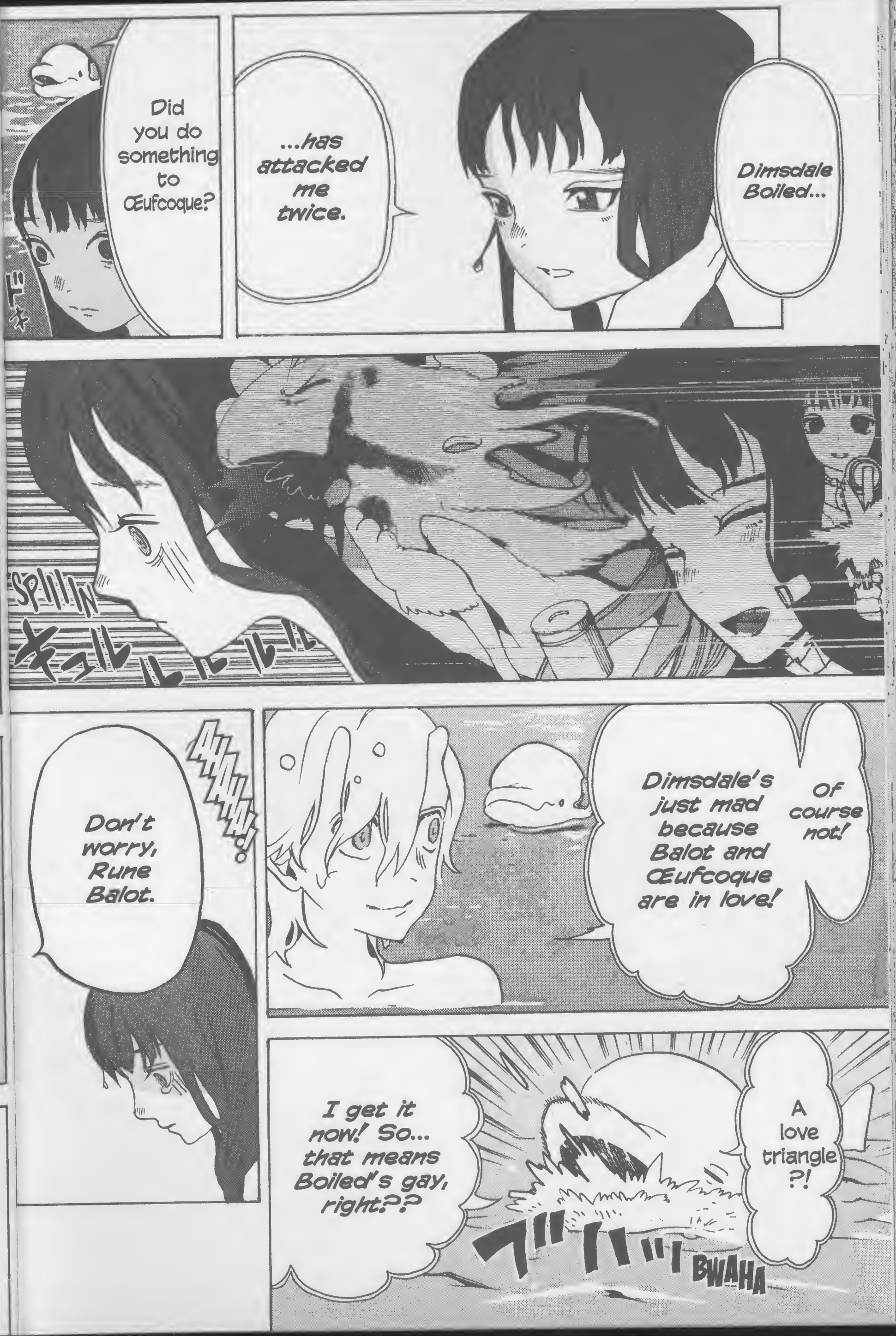

No....
Who is this girl? Who is this girl?
SPLASH
Tweedledeee!!
SPLASH
There's a strange girl here!!
SPLASH
Who is she?! Who?!
I brought her here.
ザ゛ SPLASH
Sorry, Balot.
This talking dolphin is Tweedledum.
.....

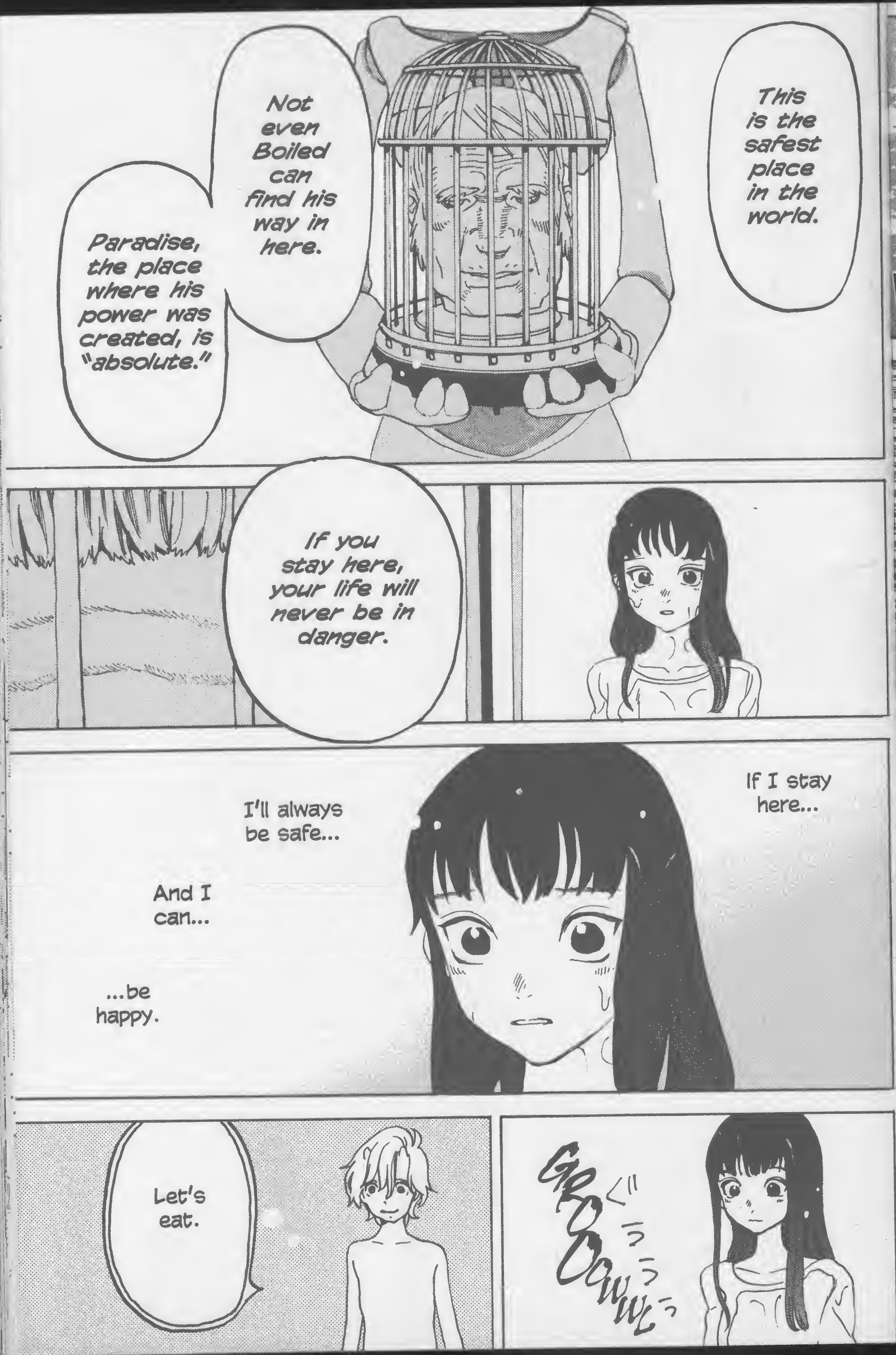

How dare you deceive my partner!!
THWACK
PLOP
Stop!! She came here to get healed!
SPLASH
...
The pain...
...really is gone!

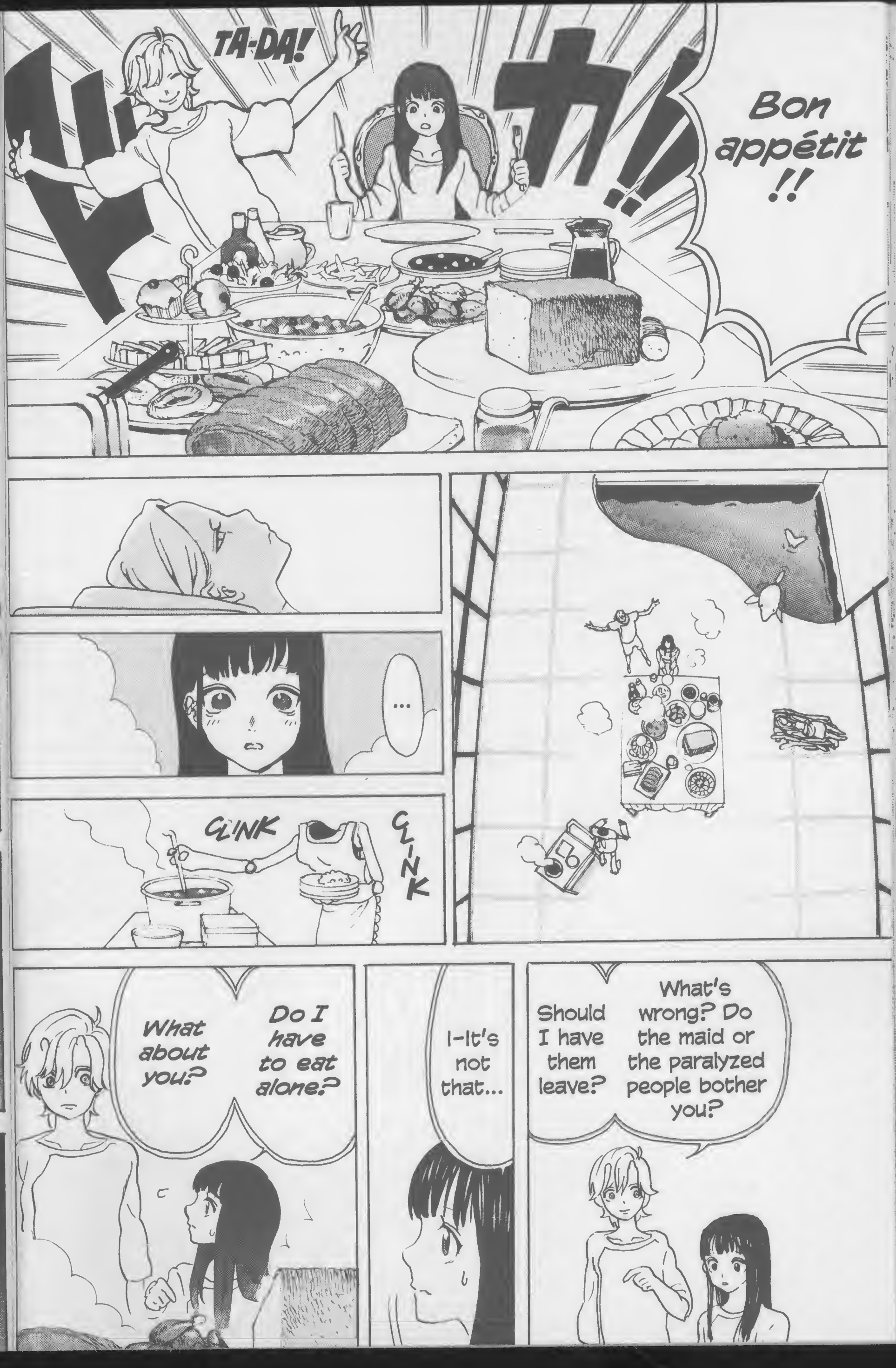

So deep...
GURGLE
Is there something here?
Computer terminal.
It can access almost all the computers in the world.
Don't touch it.
It's forbidden to access any data besides Paradise.
I got in lots of trouble before when I went to a foreign porn site...
Balot's not like you.
GASP
GASP
SPLASH
!
SPLASH

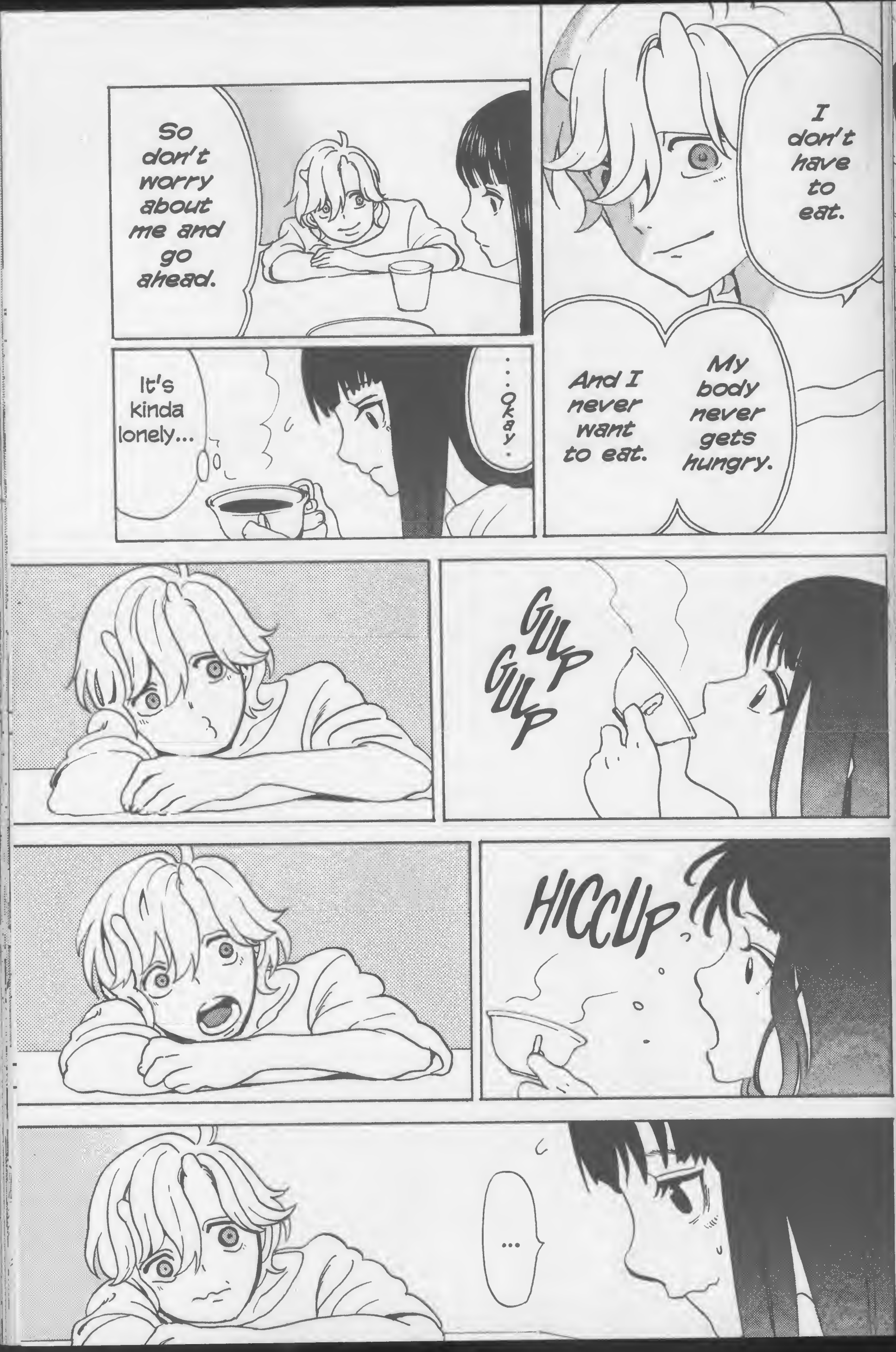

Hello...
Rune Balot.
Are you finding yourself comfortable here?

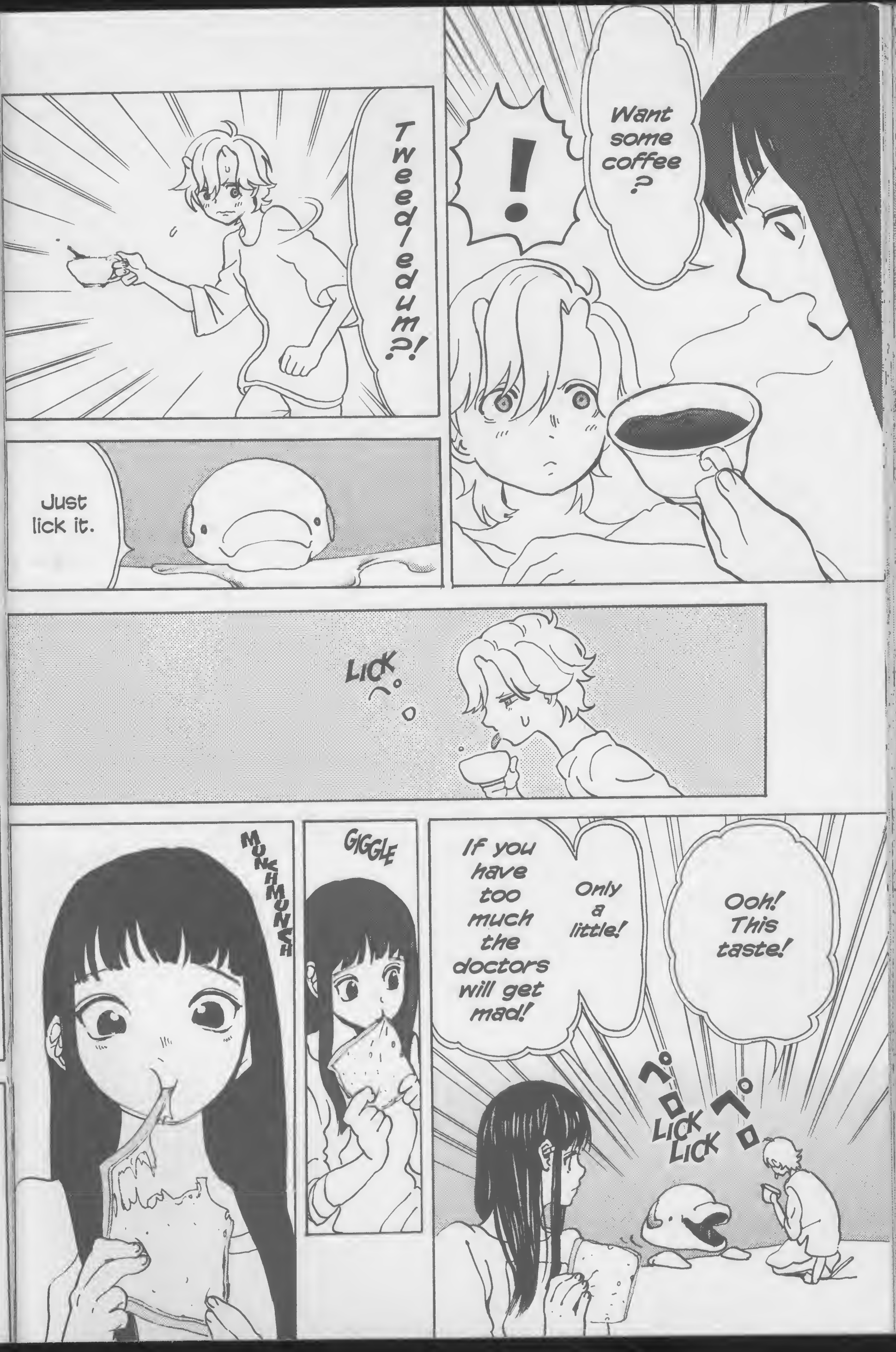

He's the boss professor, Faceman!
Answer him!
COUGH
ゴホ
H-Head... ?!
T-Tweedledee is taking good care of me...
SPLASH
It's nice here.
This used to be a space tactical research facility.
This is where Œufcoque was born?
Your power, and Dimsdale Boiled's power...
And Œufcoque Penteano were all born here.

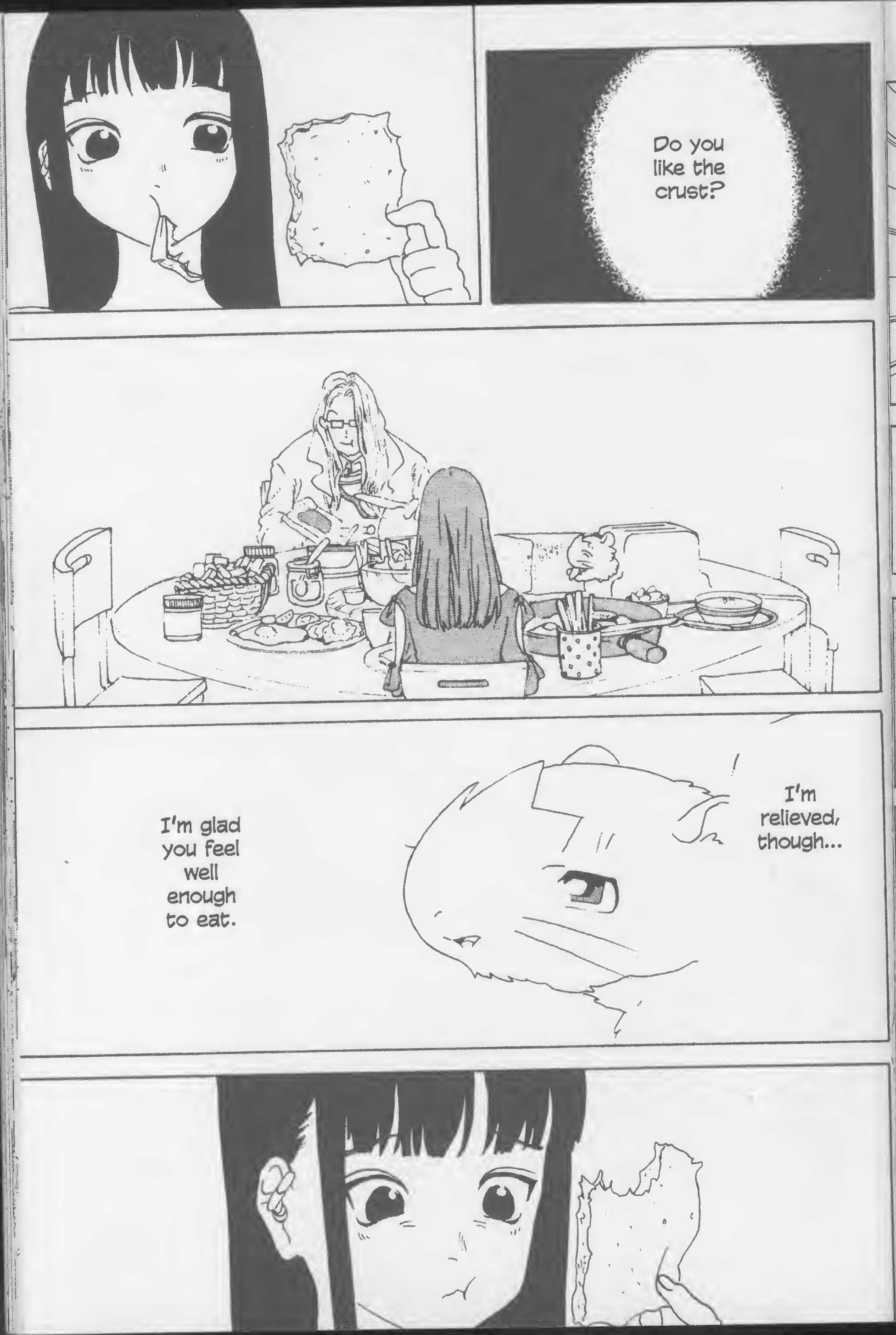

Dimsdale Boiled...
...has attacked me twice.
Did you do something to Œufcoque?
ド
SPIIIN
キュルルルル
Of course not!
Dimsdale's just mad because Balot and Œufcoque are in love!
AHAHA!
Don't worry, Rune Balot.
A love triangle?!
I get it now! So... that means Boiled's gay, right??
ブハッ
BWAHA

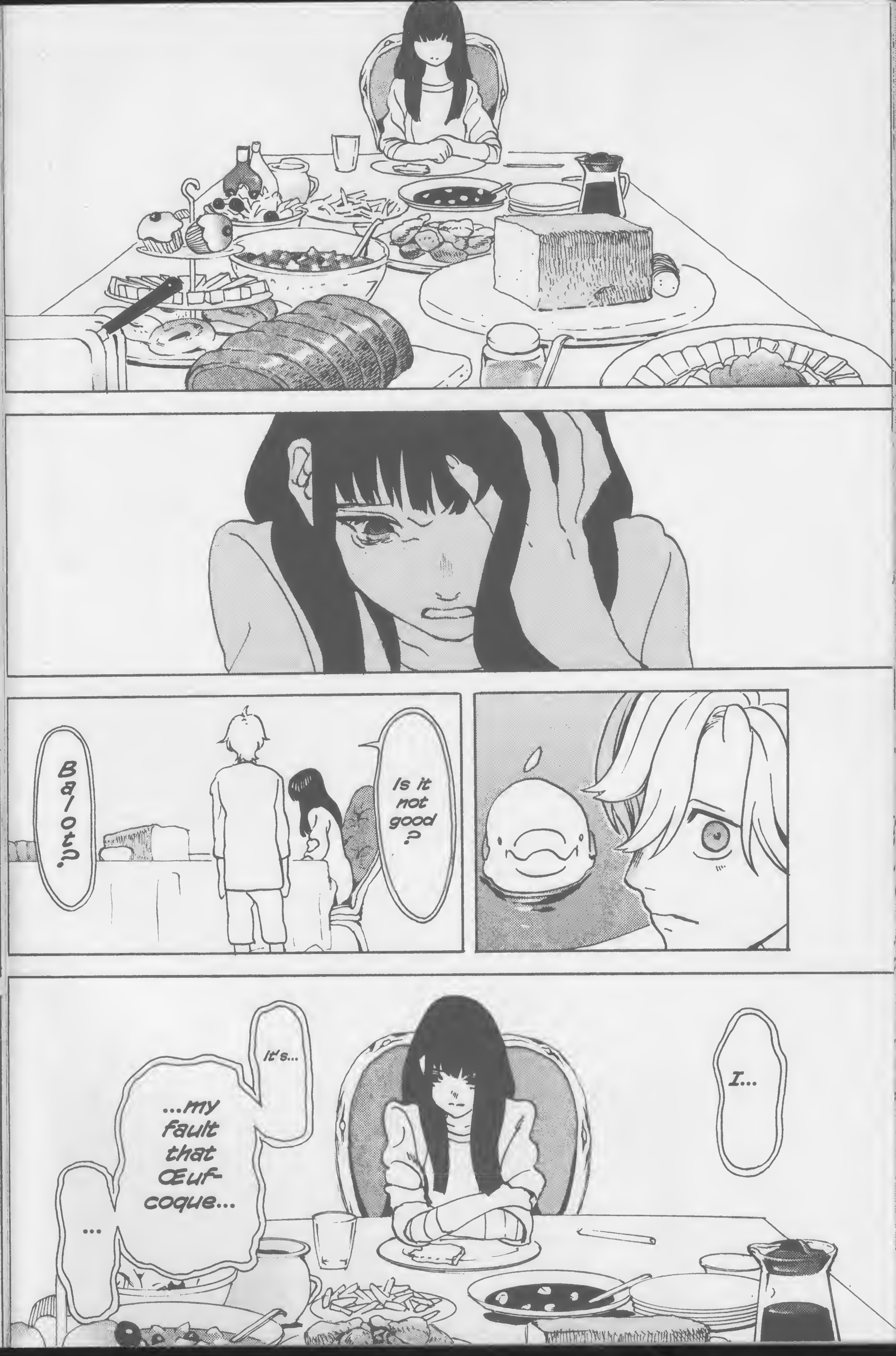

This is the safest place in the world.
Not even Boiled can find his way in here.
Paradise, the place where his power was created, is "absolute."
If you stay here, your life will never be in danger.
If I stay here...
I'll always be safe...
And I can...
...be happy.
ぐ〜〜
GROOOWL
Let's eat.

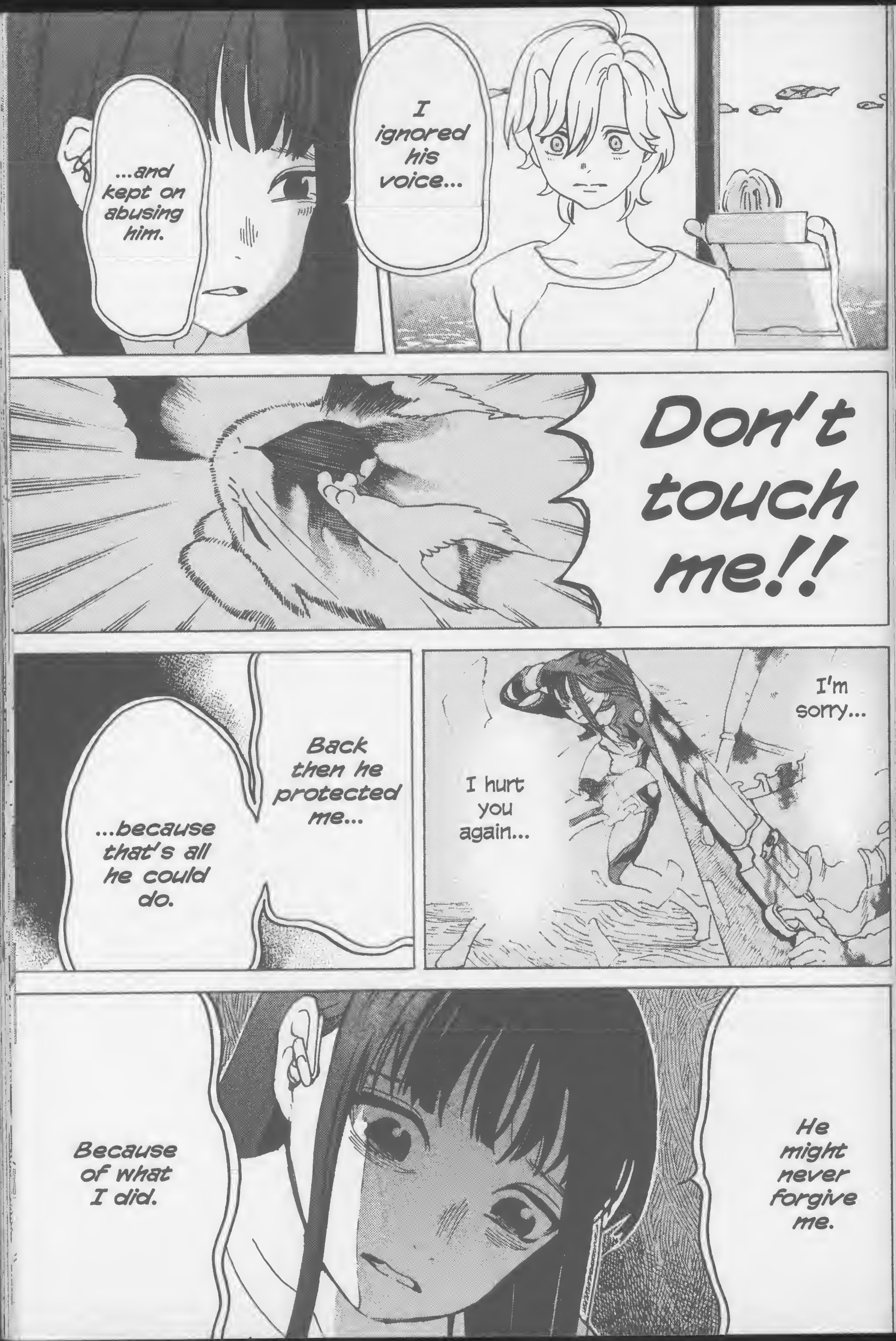

Bon appétit !!
TA-DA!
...
CLINK
CLINK
What's wrong? Do the maid or the paralyzed people bother you?
Should I have them leave?
I-It's not that...
Do I have to eat alone?
What about you?

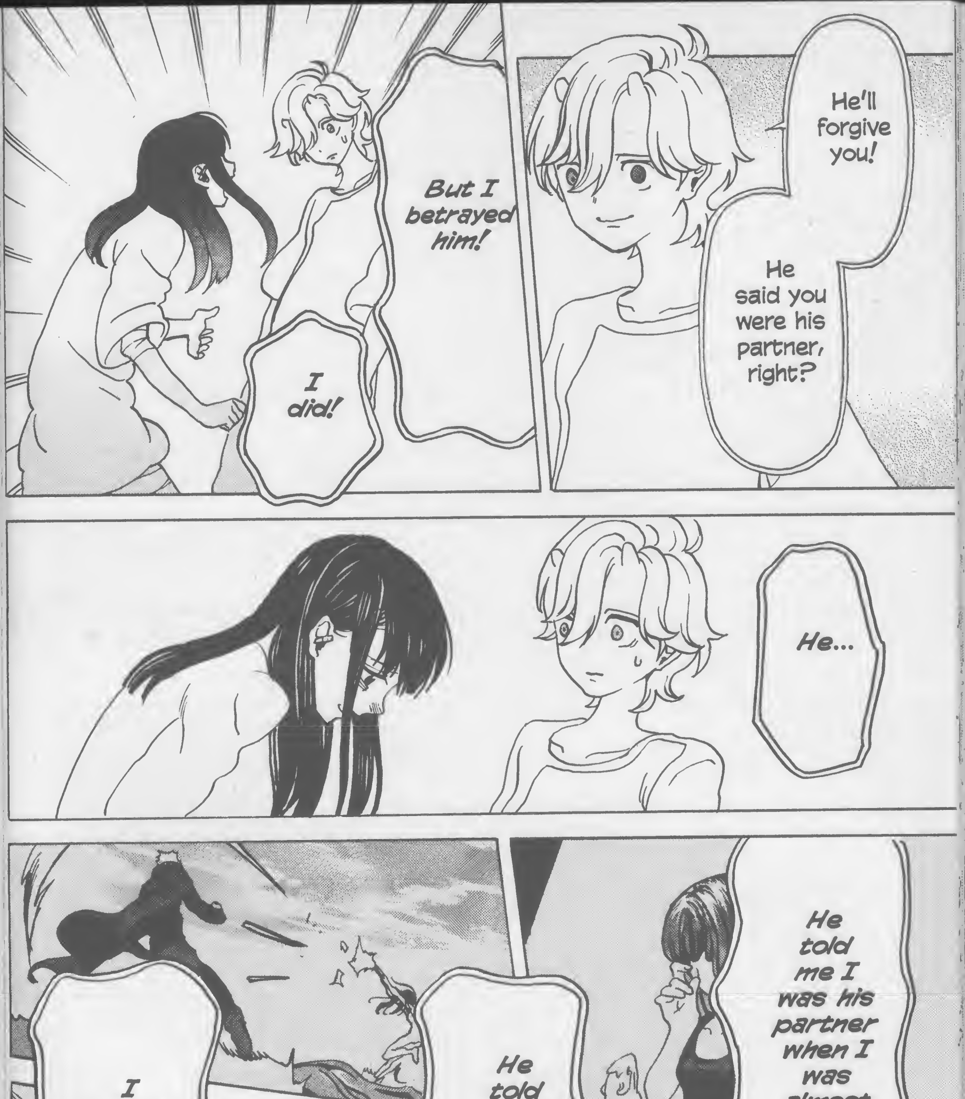

I don't have to eat.
My body never gets hungry.
And I never want to eat.
So don't worry about me and go ahead.
...Okay.
It's kinda lonely...
GULP GULP
HICCUP
...

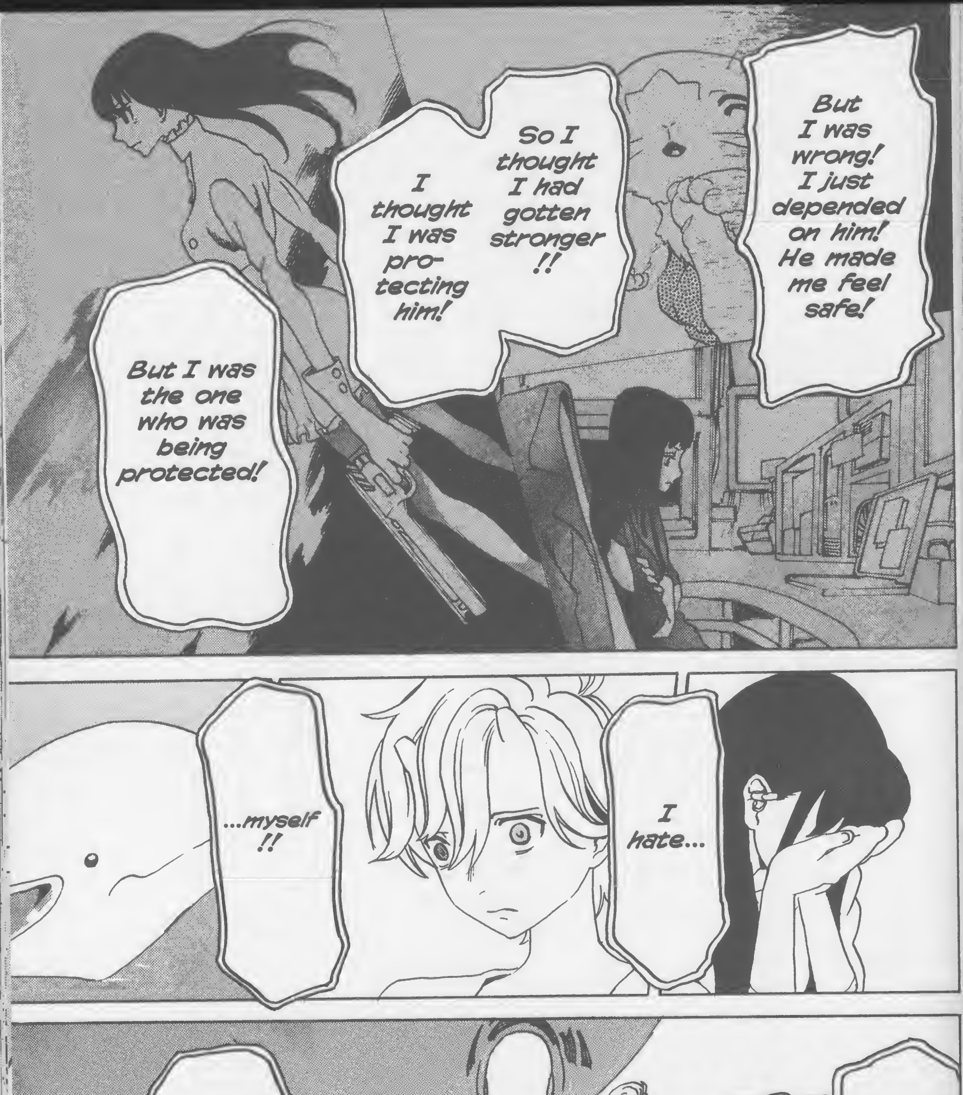

Want some coffee?
!
Tweedledum?!
Just lick it.
LICK
Ooh! This taste!
Only a little!
If you have too much the doctors will get mad!
ペロ
LICK LICK
ペロ
GIGGLE
MUNCH MUNCH

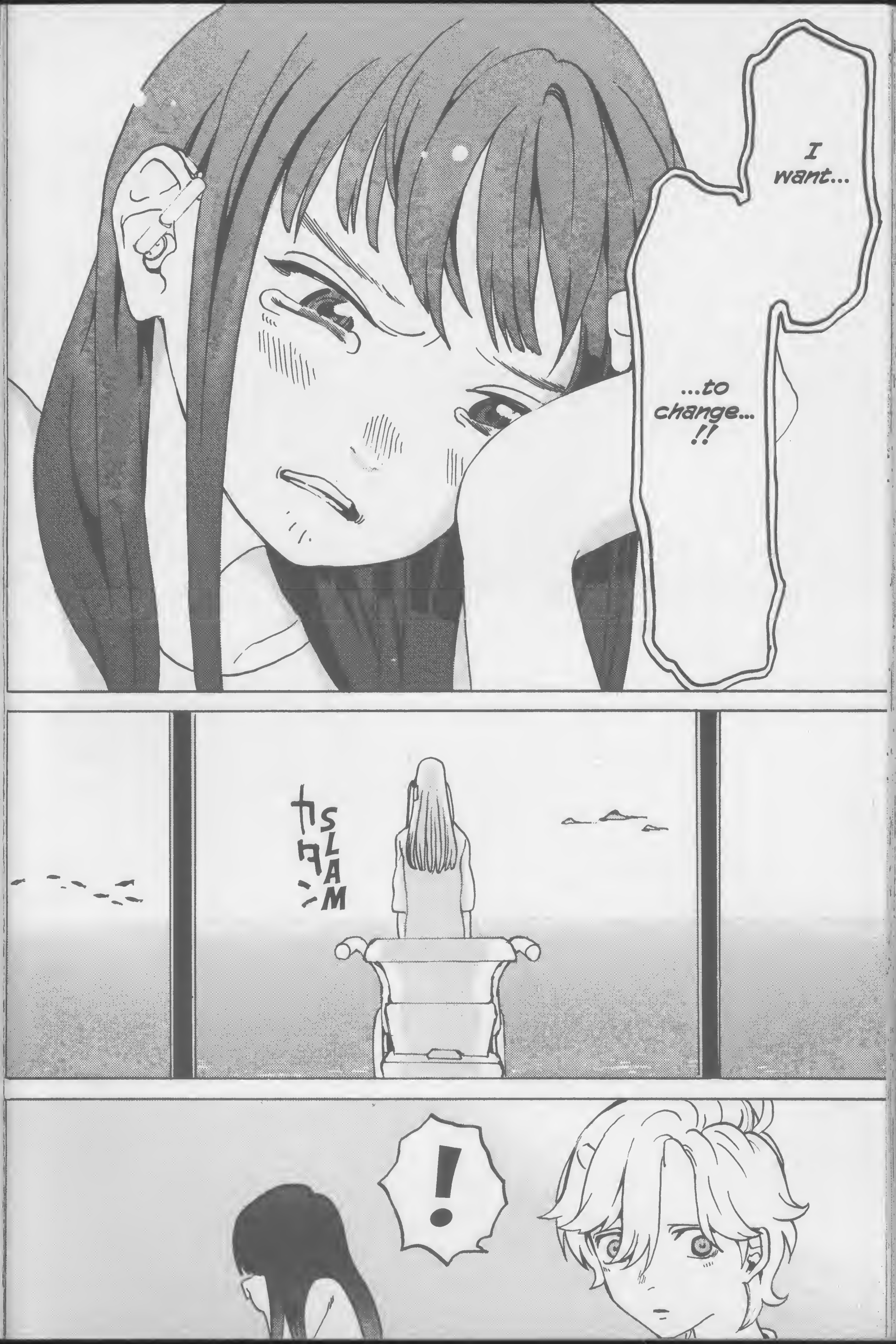

Do you like the crust?
I'm relieved, though...
I'm glad you feel well enough to eat.

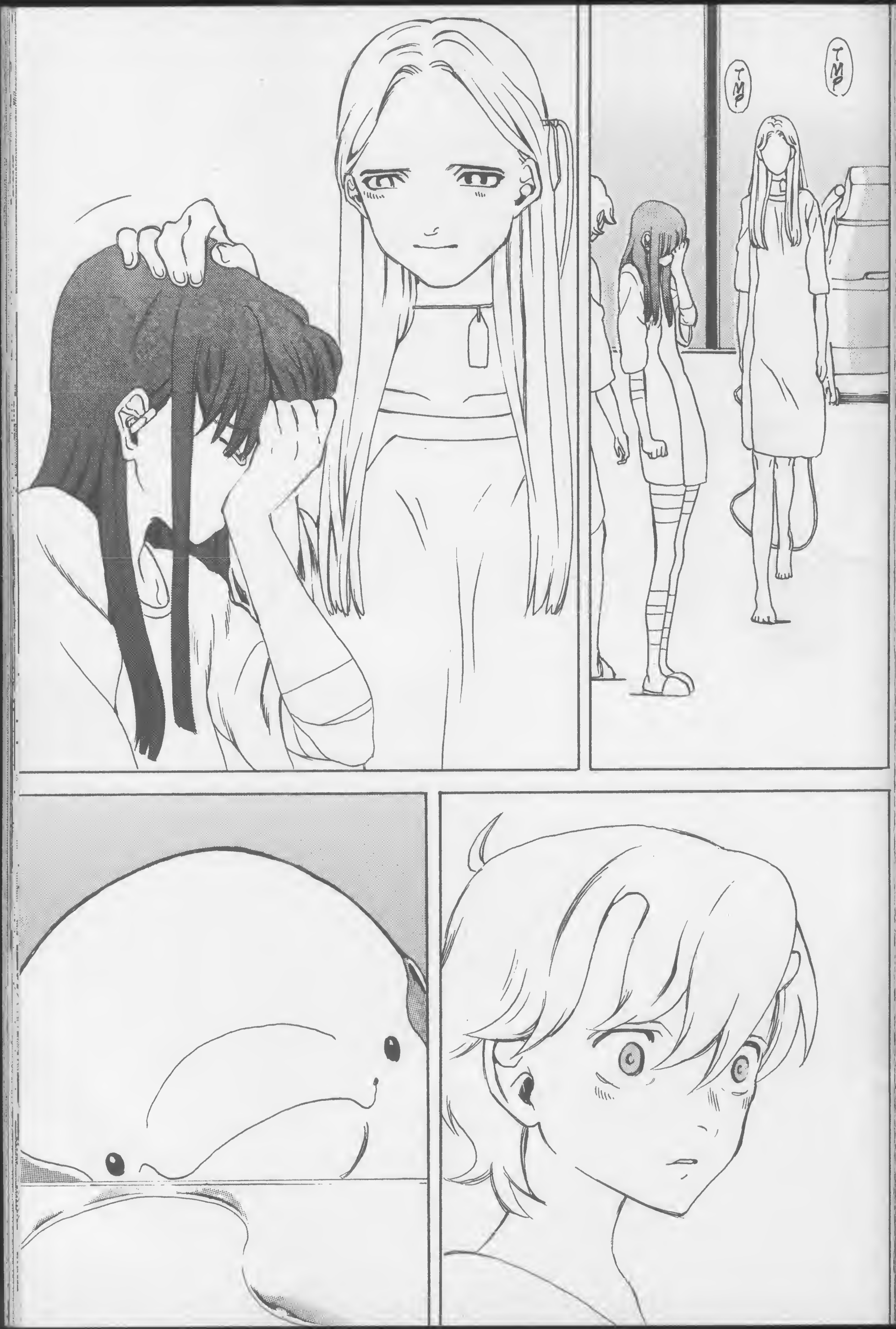

Is it not good?
Balot?
I...
It's...
...my fault that Œufcoque...
...

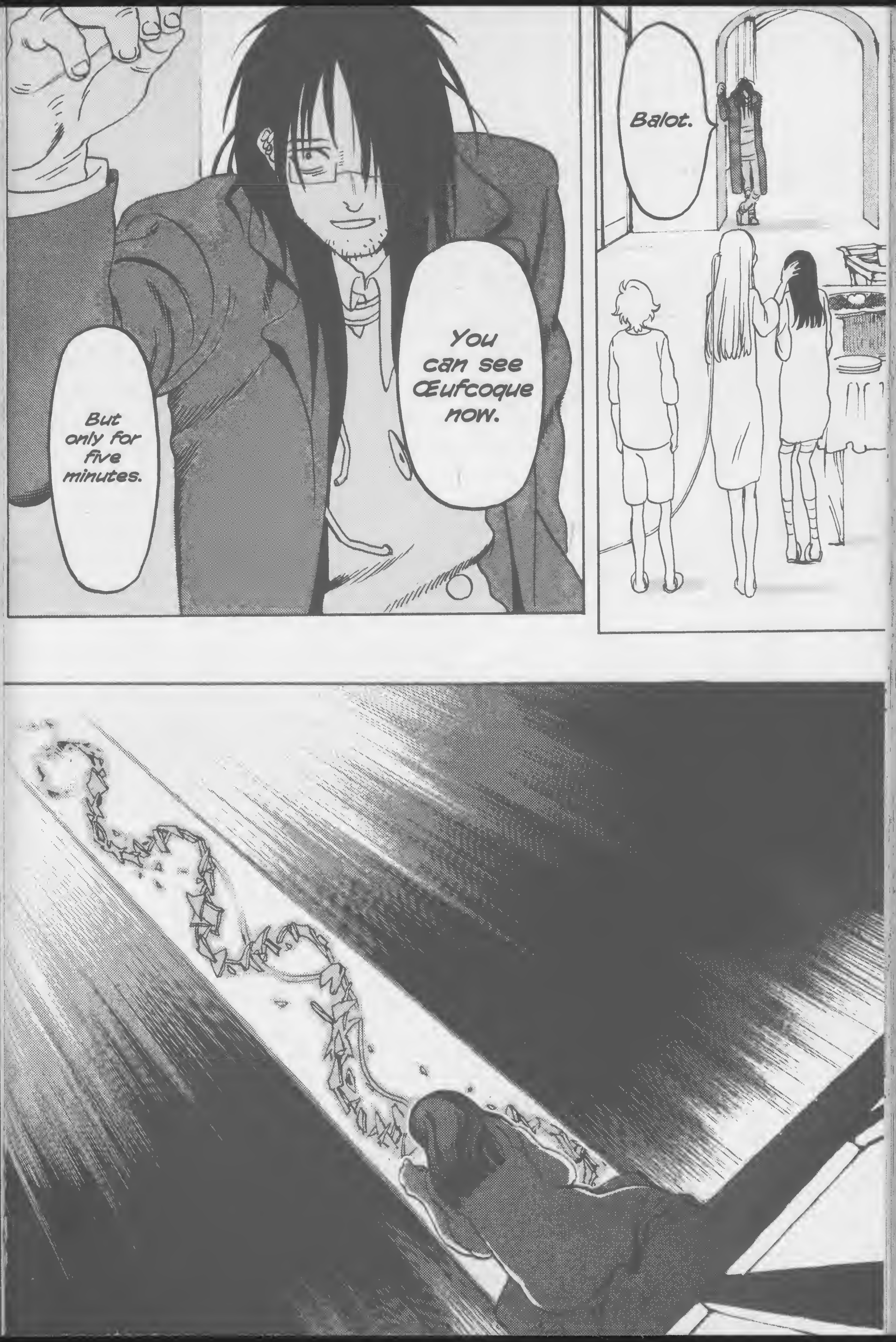

I ignored his voice...
...and kept on abusing him.
Don't touch me!!
I'm sorry...
I hurt you again...
Back then he protected me...
...because that's all he could do.
He might never forgive me.
Because of what I did.

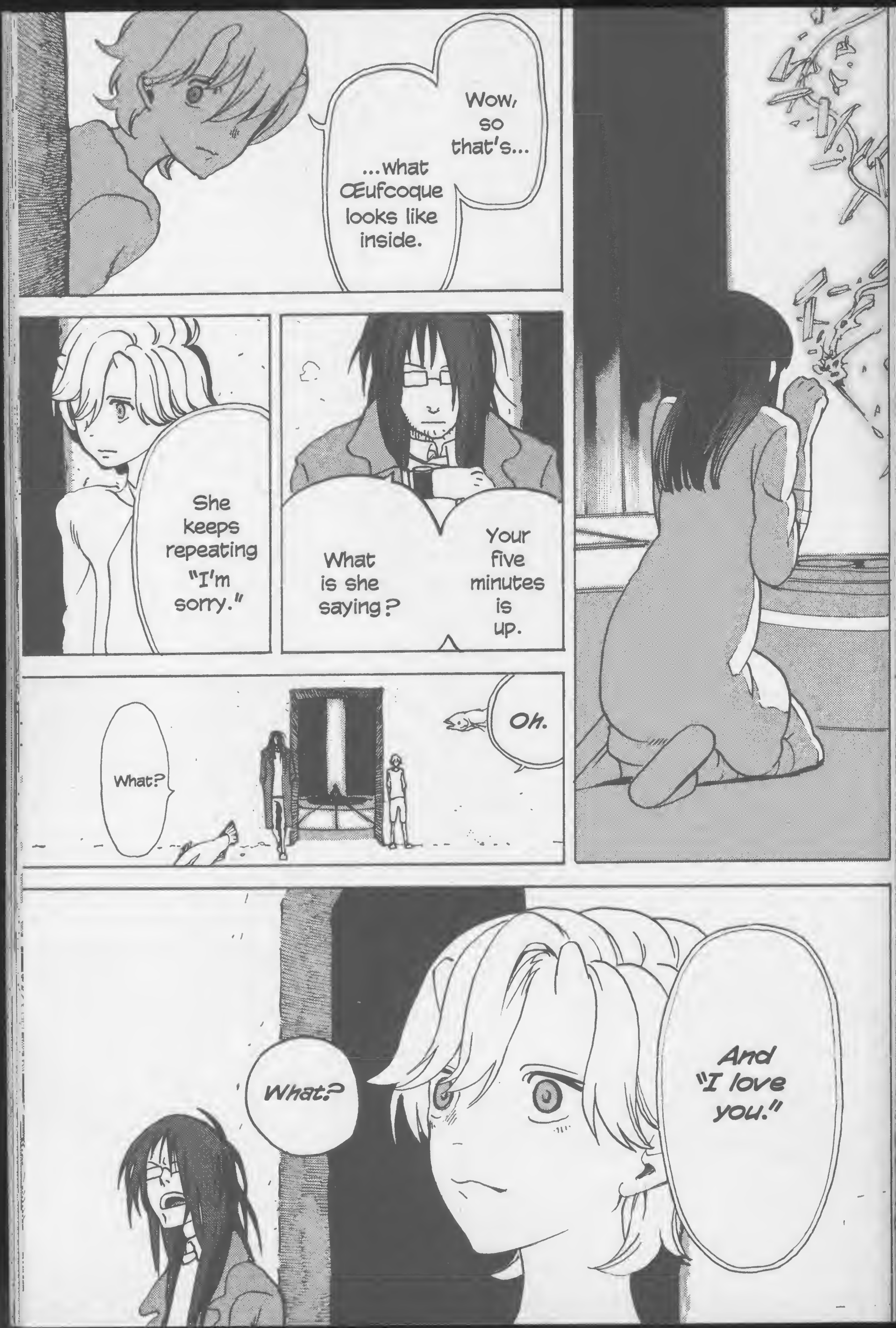

He'll forgive you!
He said you were his partner, right?
But I betrayed him!
I did!
He...
He told me I was his partner when I was almost dead!
He told me we could search for the meaning of life together!
I thought I had come out of my shell then...

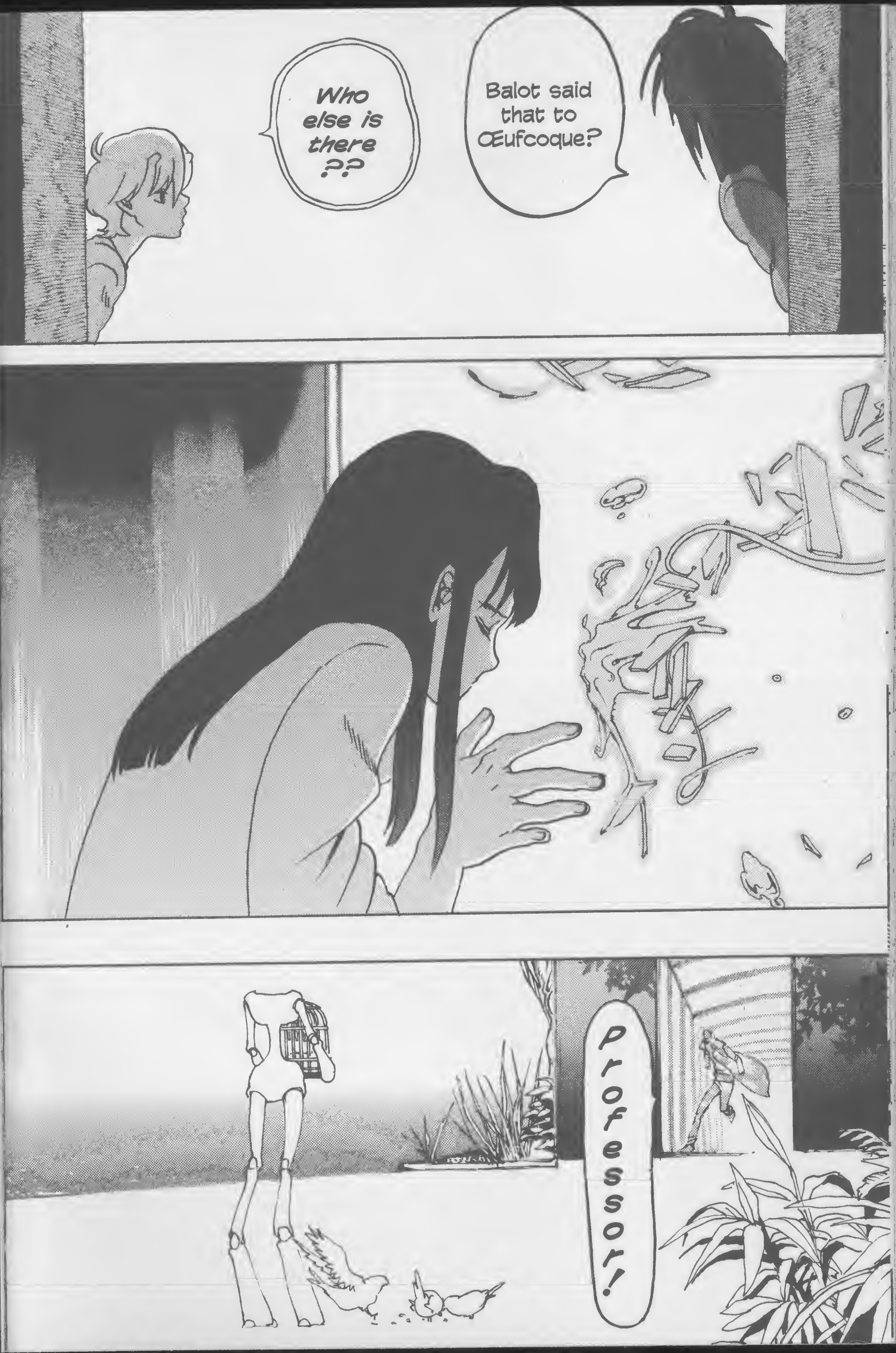

But I was wrong! I just depended on him! He made me feel safe!
So I thought I had gotten stronger!!
I thought I was protecting him!
But I was the one who was being protected!
I hate...
...myself!!
I want to learn more about Œufcoque and Dr. Easter...
...and about this world.
And think more.
I want to think...
...about what I should do!

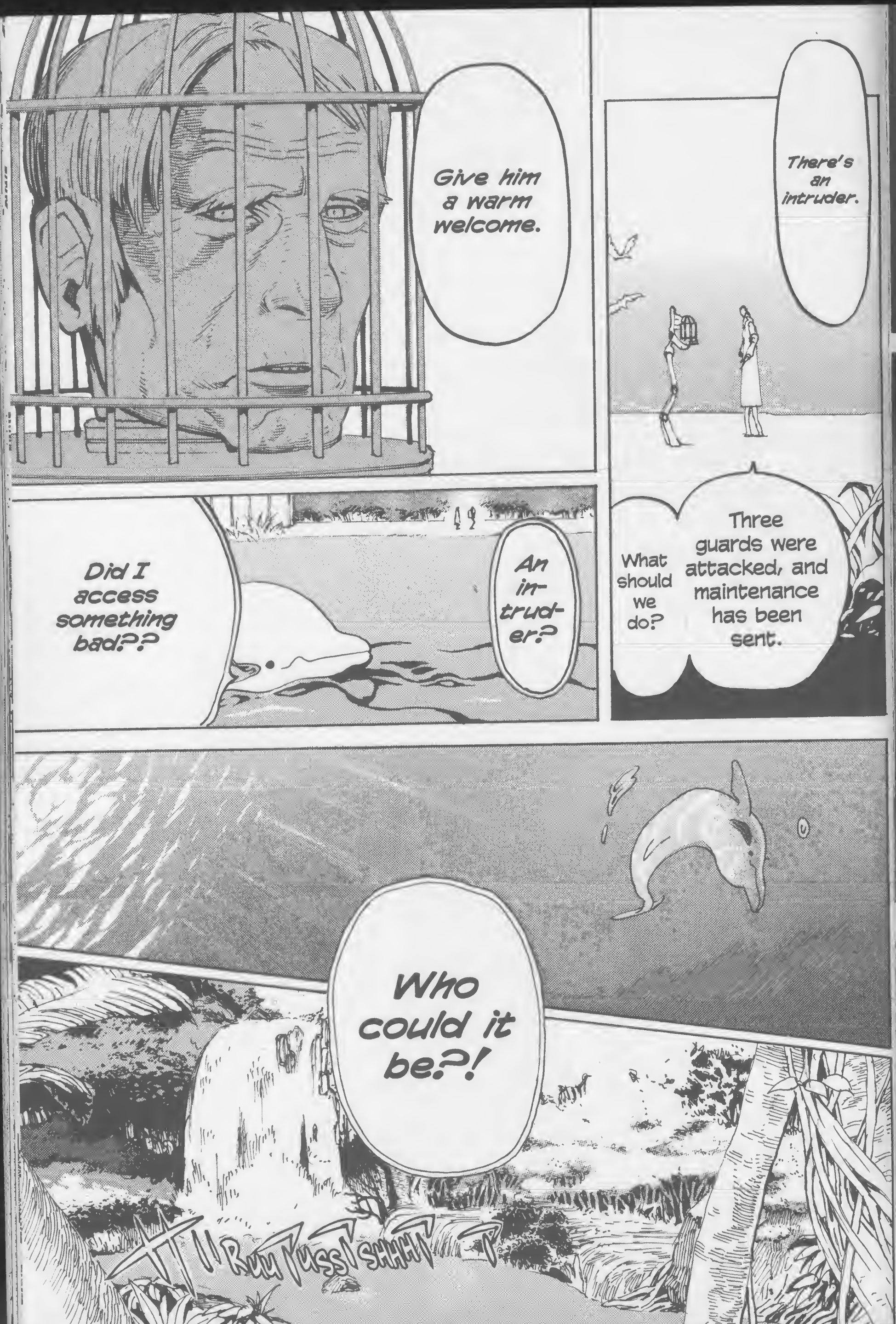

I want...
...to change...!!
SLAM
!


TMP
TMP


Balot.
You can see Œufcoque now.
But only for five minutes.

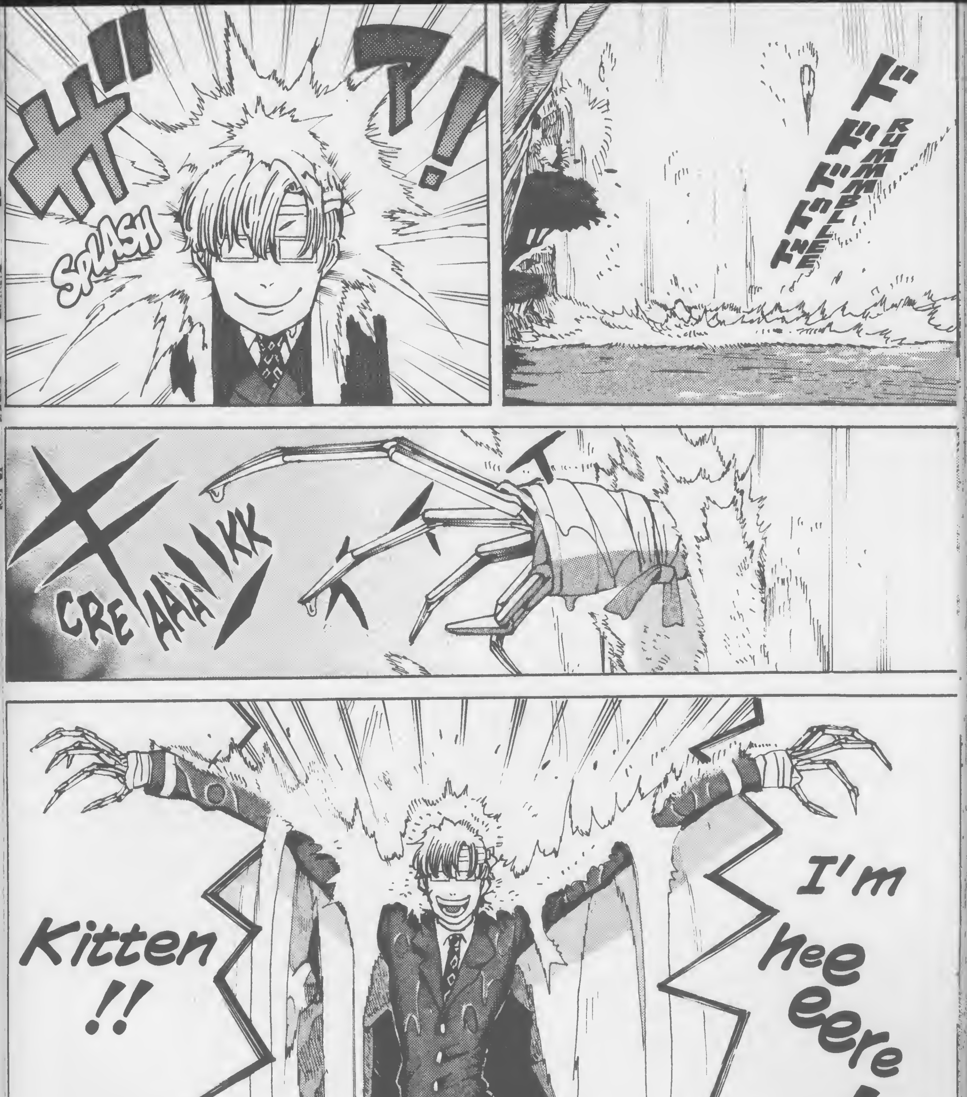

Wow, so that's...
...what Œufcoque looks like inside.
Your five minutes is up.
What is she saying?
She keeps repeating "I'm sorry."
Oh.
What?
And "I love you."
What?

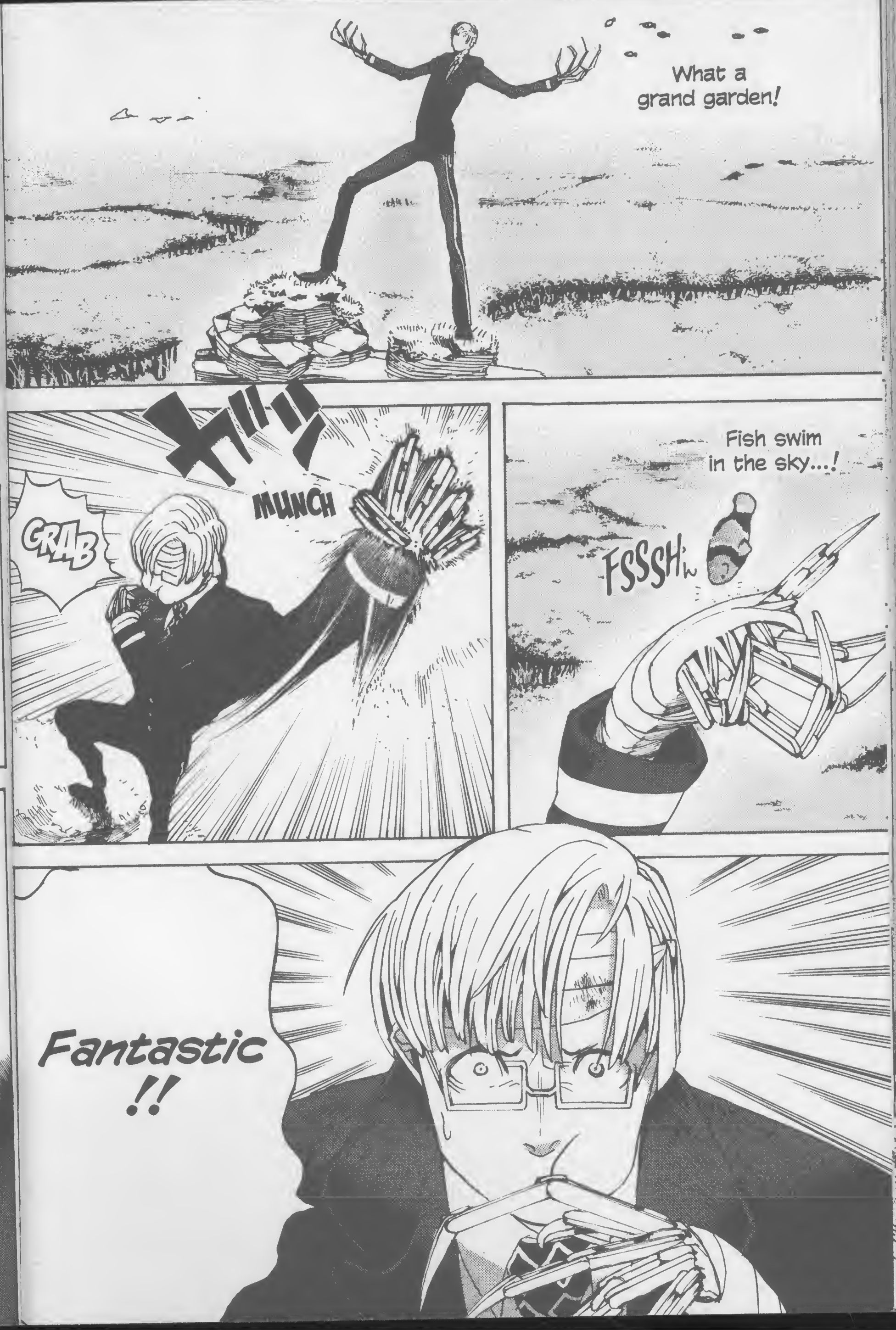

Balot said that to Œufcoque?
Who else is there ??
Professor!

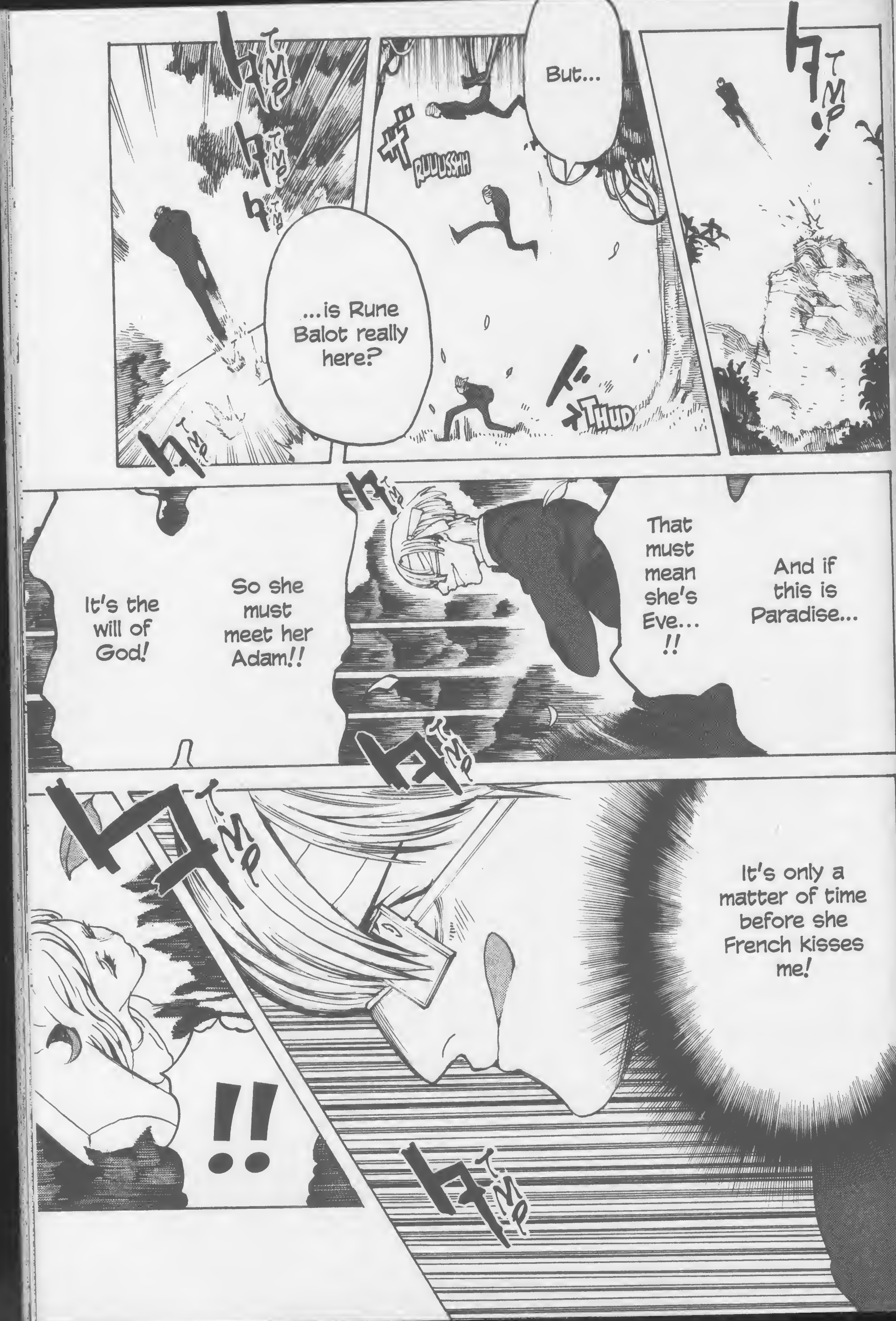

There's an intruder.
Give him a warm welcome.
Three guards were attacked, and maintenance has been sent.
What should we do?
An intruder?
Did I access something bad??
Who could it be?!
RuuTussTSHHH

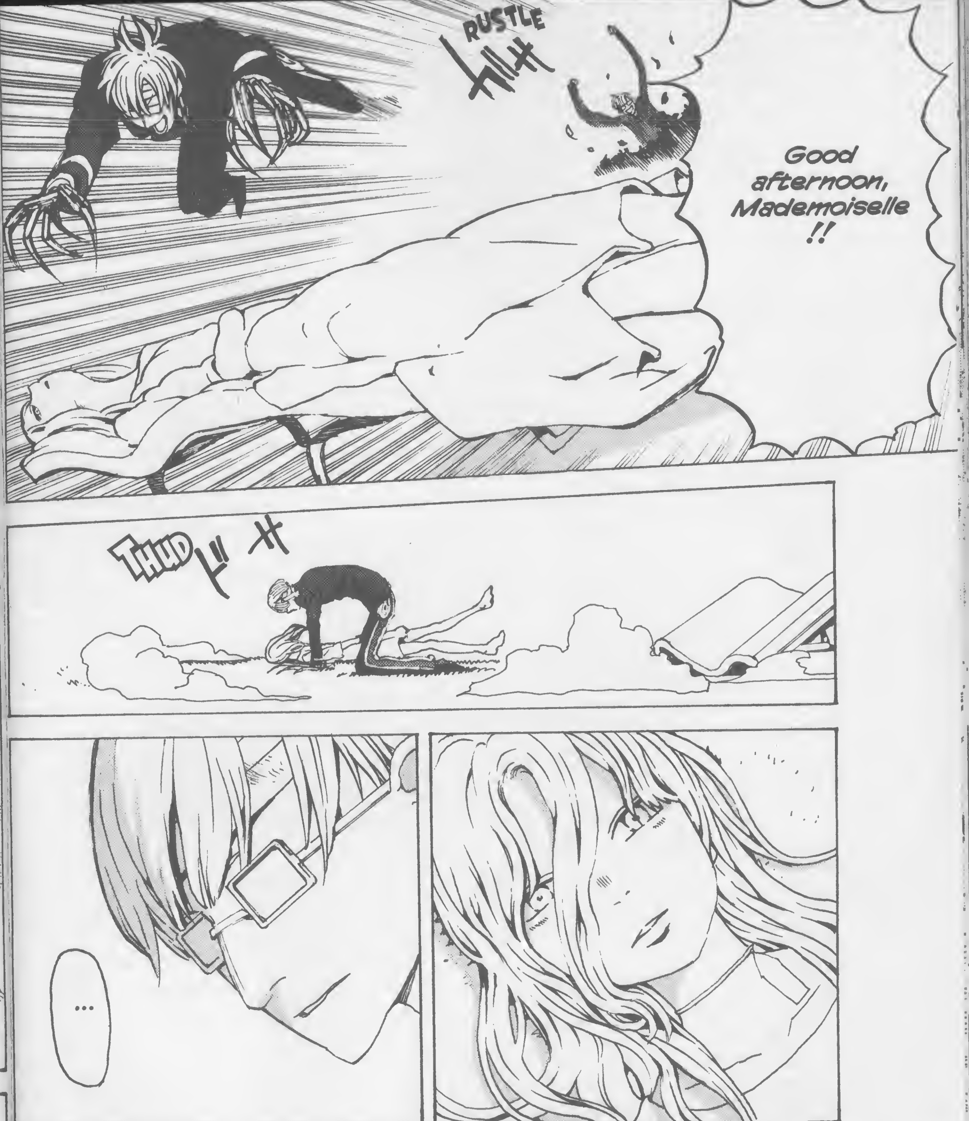
MARDOCK
SCRAMBLE

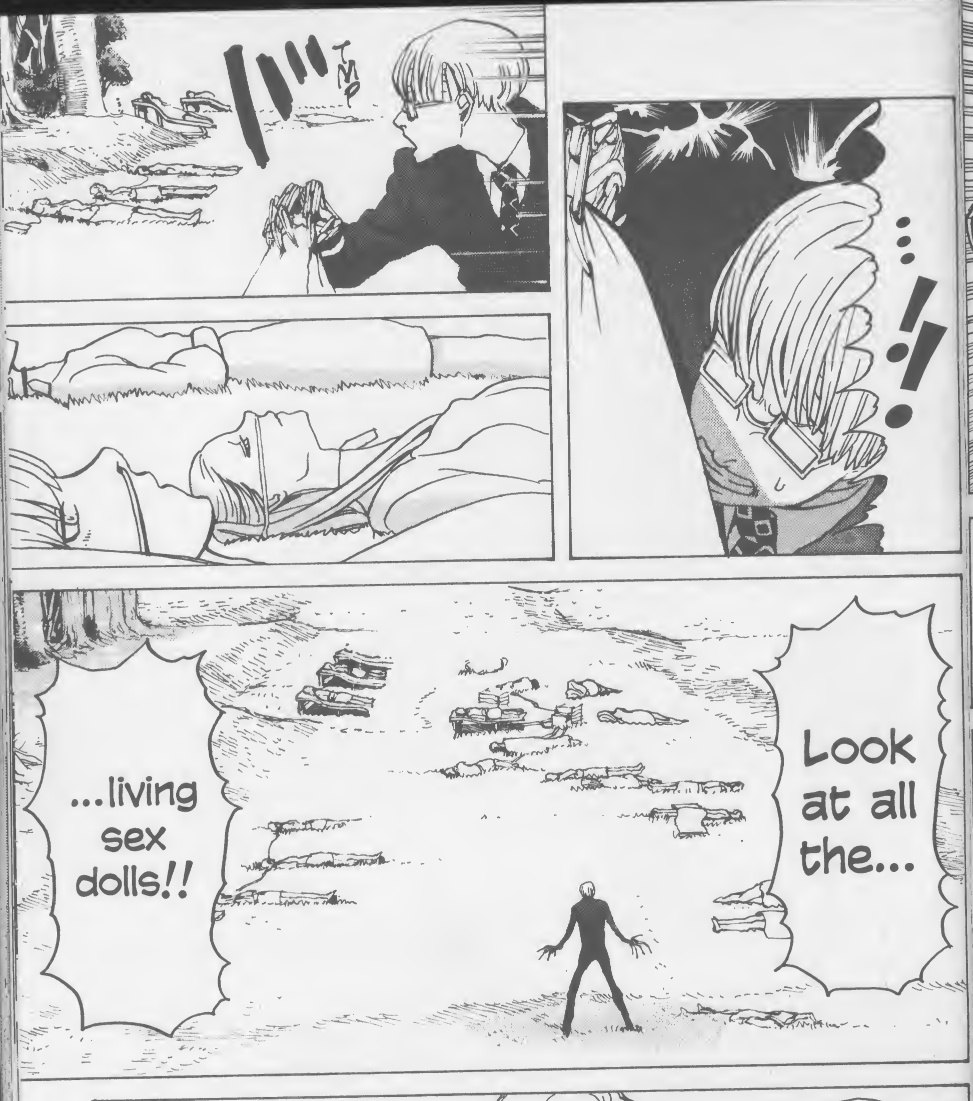
Chapter 13: Injection (1)

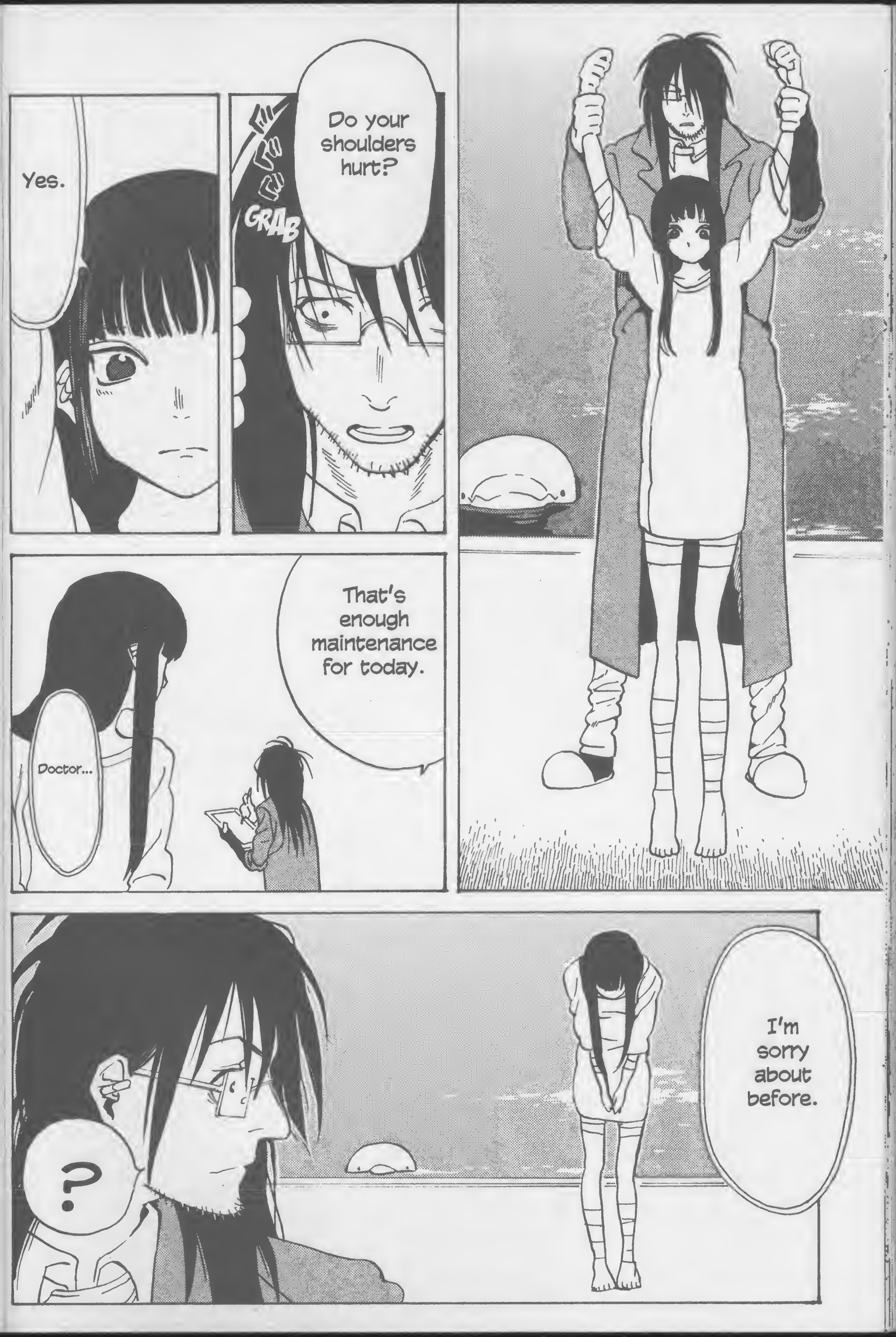

ドドドドド
RUMMMBLLLE
ザ゛ァ!!
SPLASH
CREAAAAKK
Kitten!!
I'm heeeeere!!
ザバァァァン
SPLASH

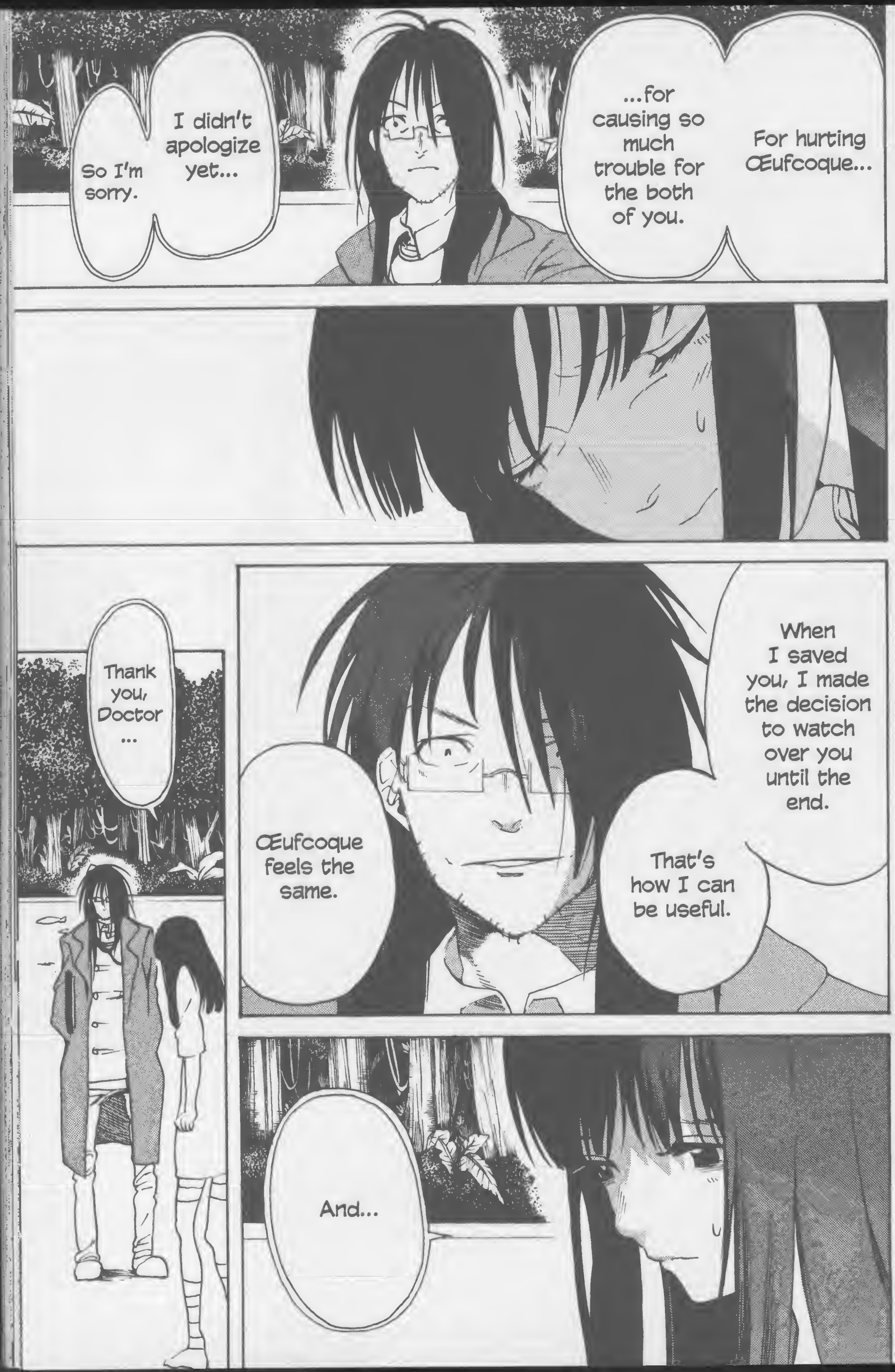

What a grand garden!
Fish swim in the sky...!
FSSSH
MUNCH
GRAB
Fantastic!!

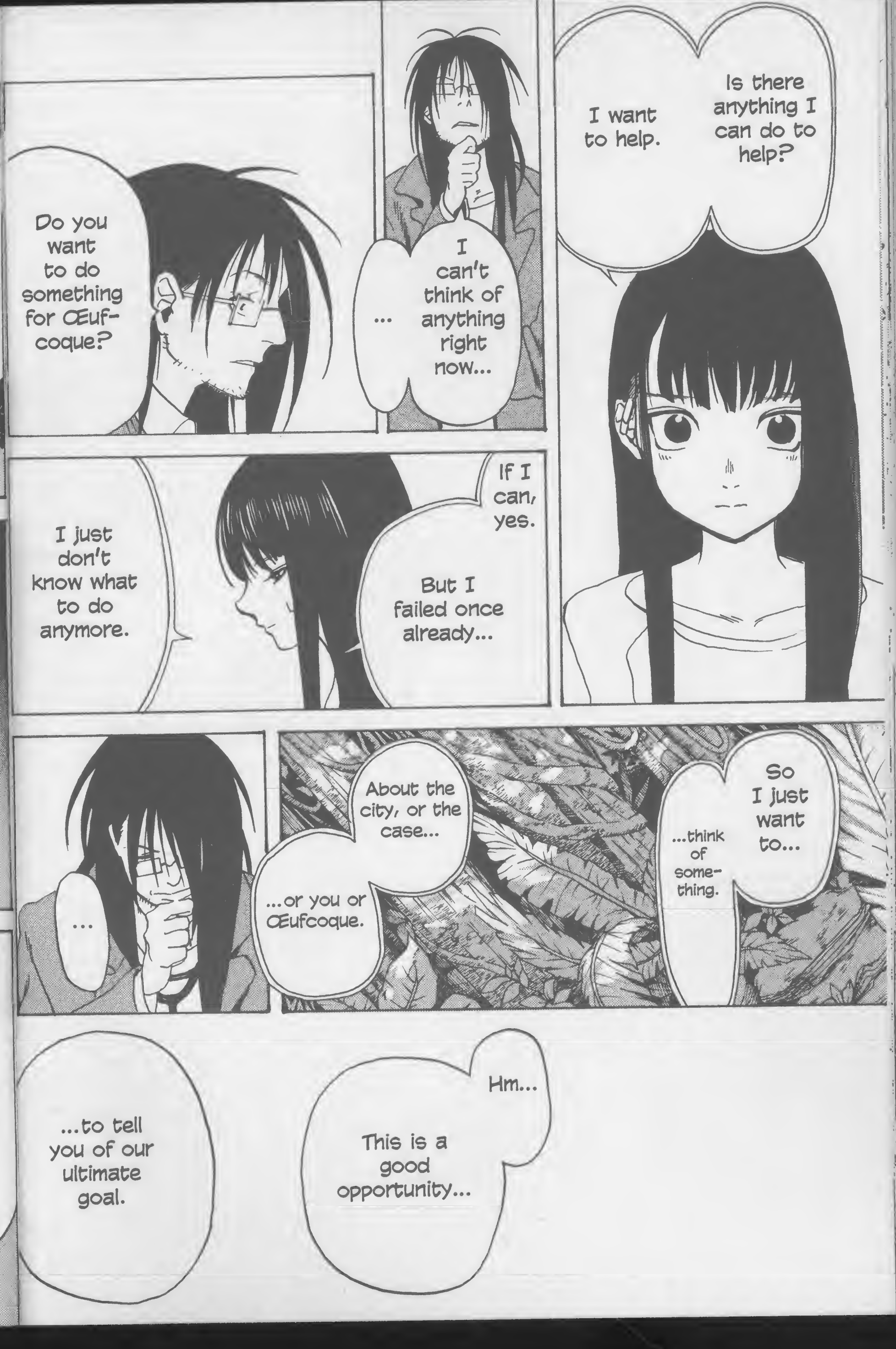

TMP
TMP
But...
RUUUSSHH
...is Rune Balot really here?
THUD
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
And if this is Paradise...
That must mean she's Eve...!!
So she must meet her Adam!!
It's the will of God!
TMP
It's only a matter of time before she French kisses me!
!!
TMP

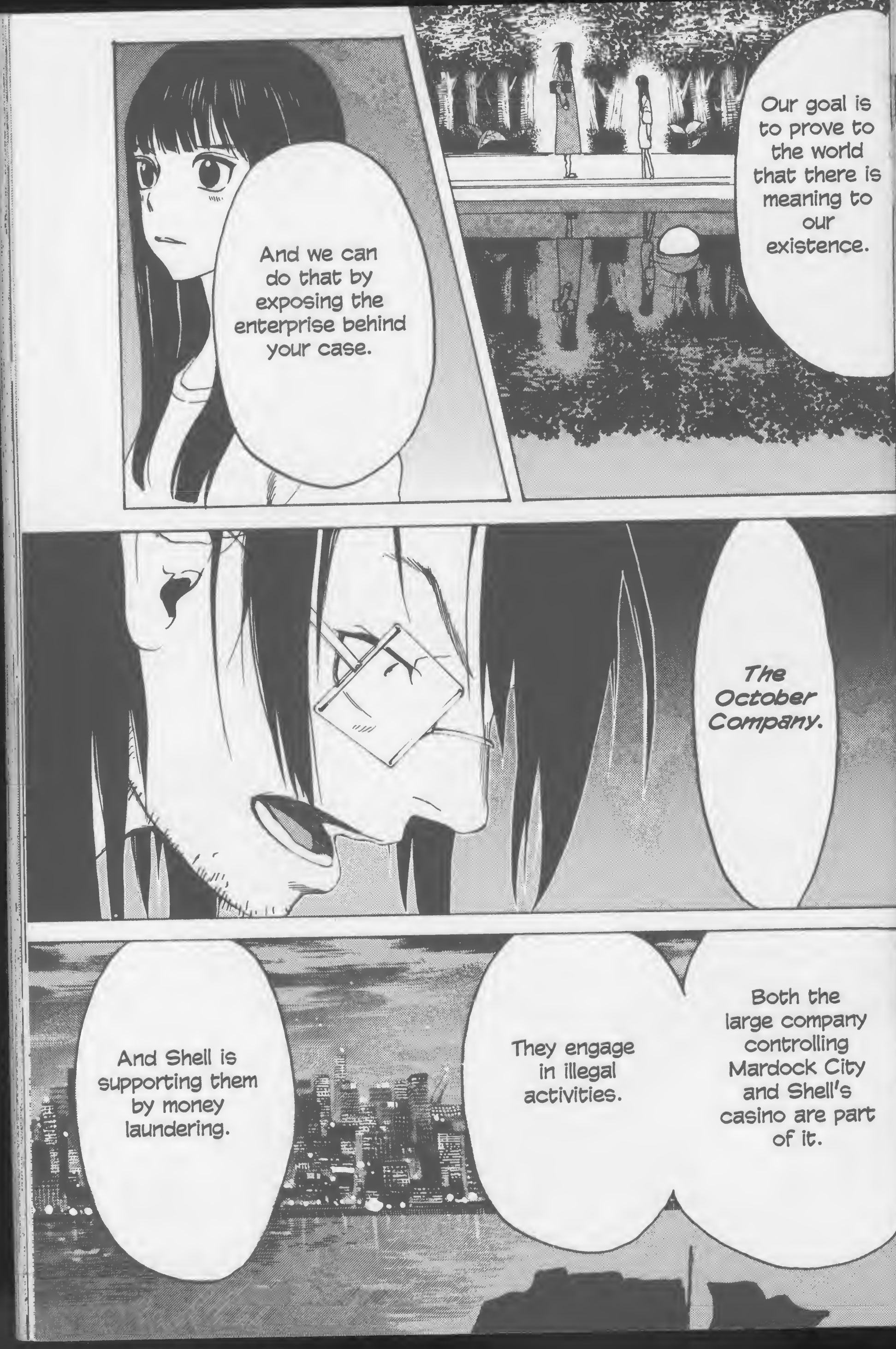

RUSTLE
Good afternoon, Mademoiselle!!
THUD
...

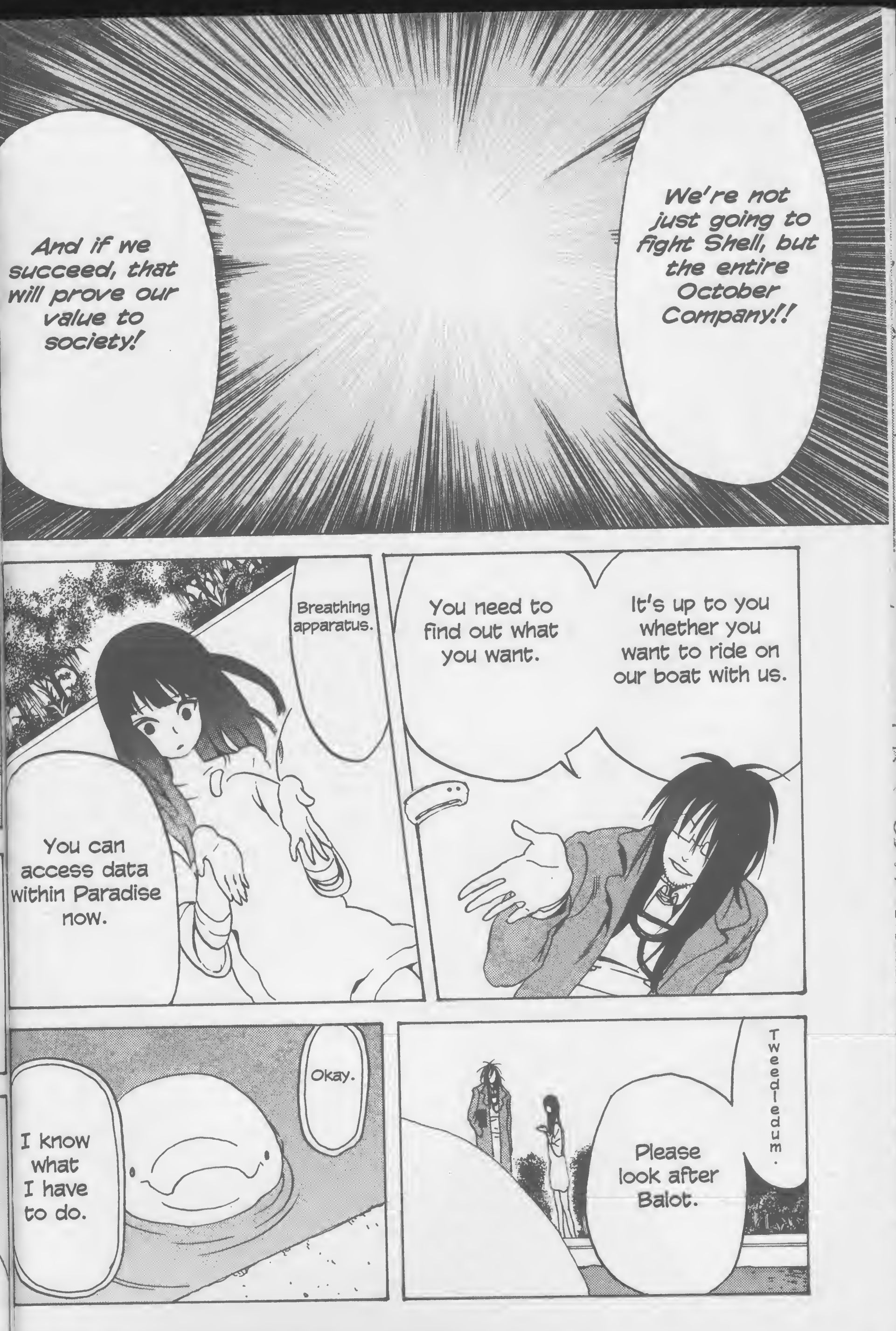

...!!
TMP
Look at all the...
...living sex dolls!!
HEH
Now I understand why...
...this is called Paradise!

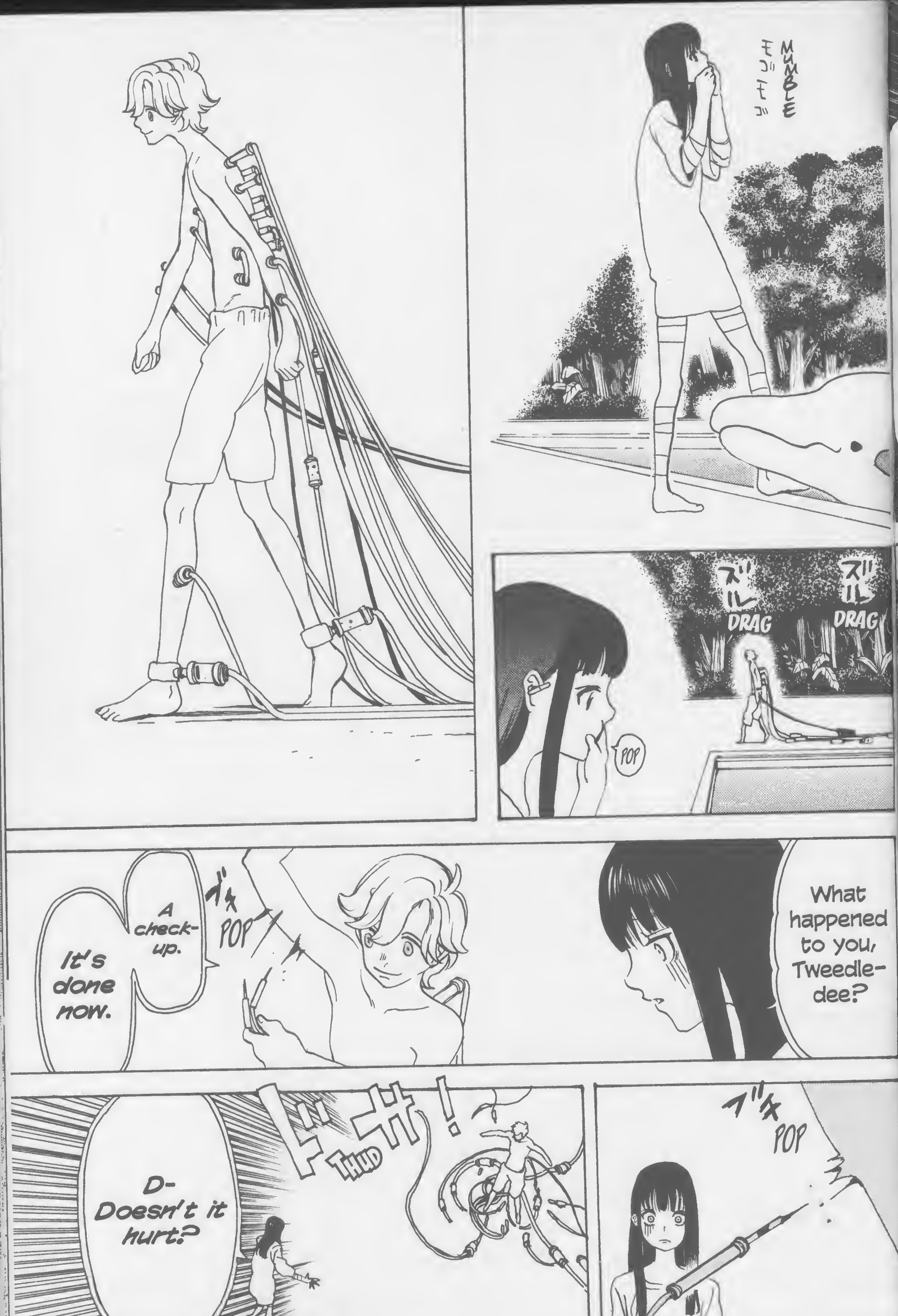

GRAB
Do your shoulders hurt?
Yes.
That's enough maintenance for today.
Doctor...
I'm sorry about before.
?

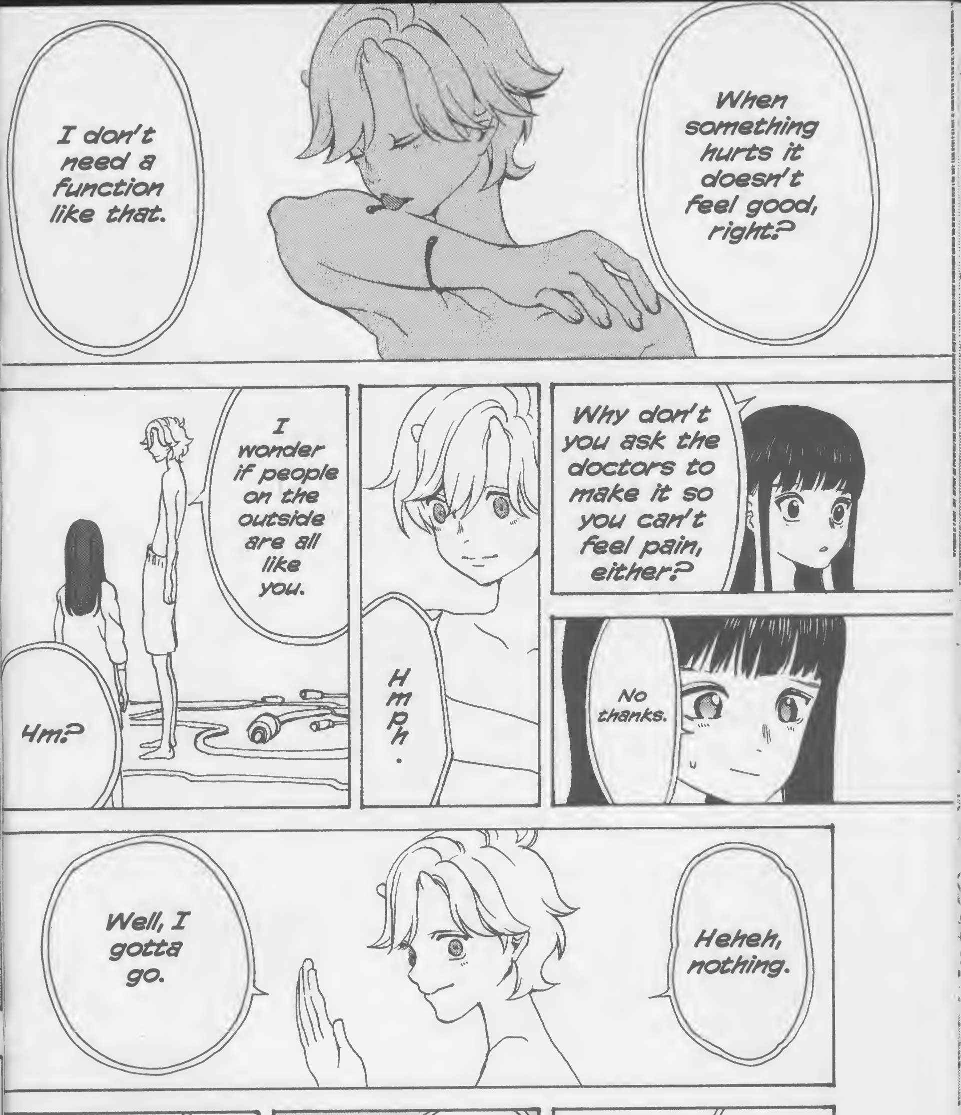

For hurting Œufcoque...
...for causing so much trouble for the both of you.
I didn't apologize yet...
So I'm sorry.
When I saved you, I made the decision to watch over you until the end.
That's how I can be useful.
Œufcoque feels the same.
And...
Thank you, Doctor ...

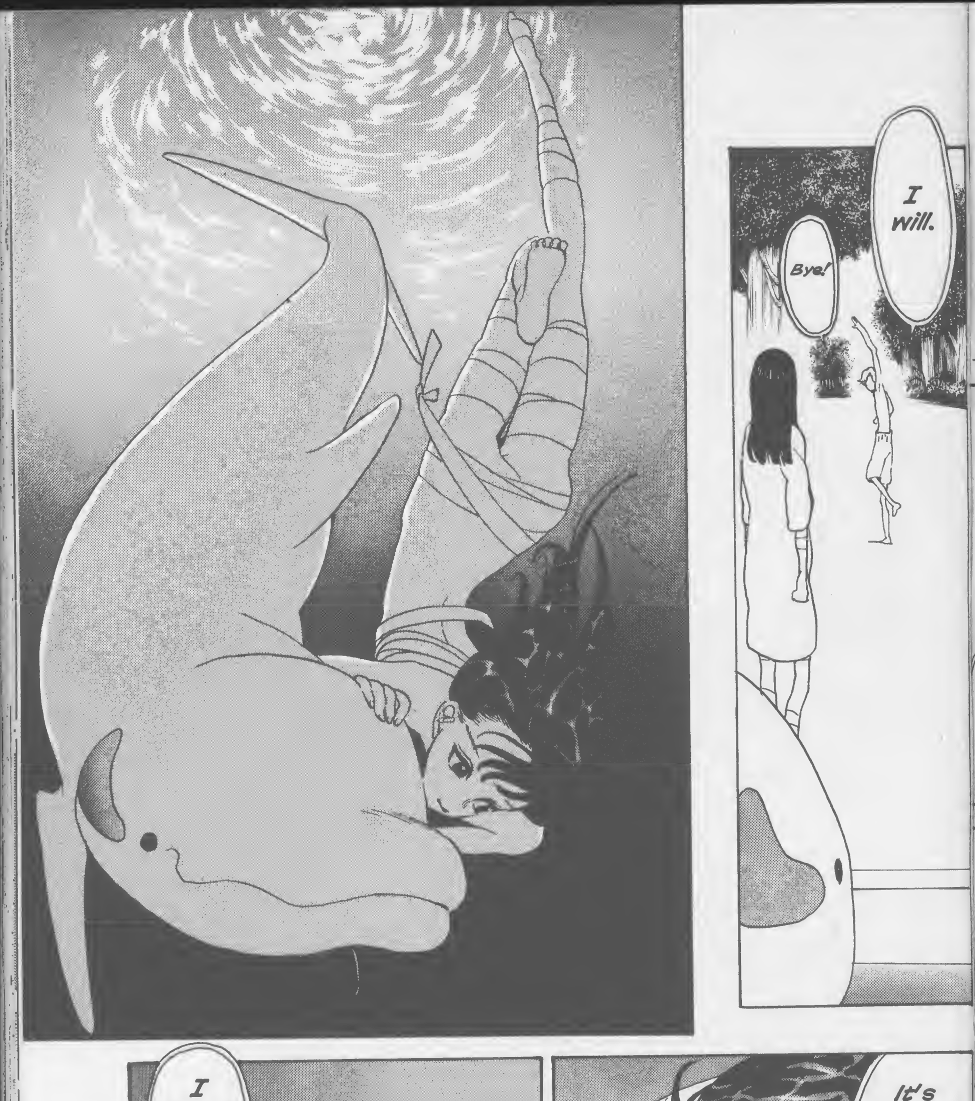

Is there anything I can do to help?
I want to help.
I can't think of anything right now...
...
Do you want to do something for Œufcoque?
If I can, yes.
But I failed once already...
I just don't know what to do anymore.
So I just want to...
...think of something.
About the city, or the case...
...or you or Œufcoque.
...
Hm...
This is a good opportunity...
...to tell you of our ultimate goal.

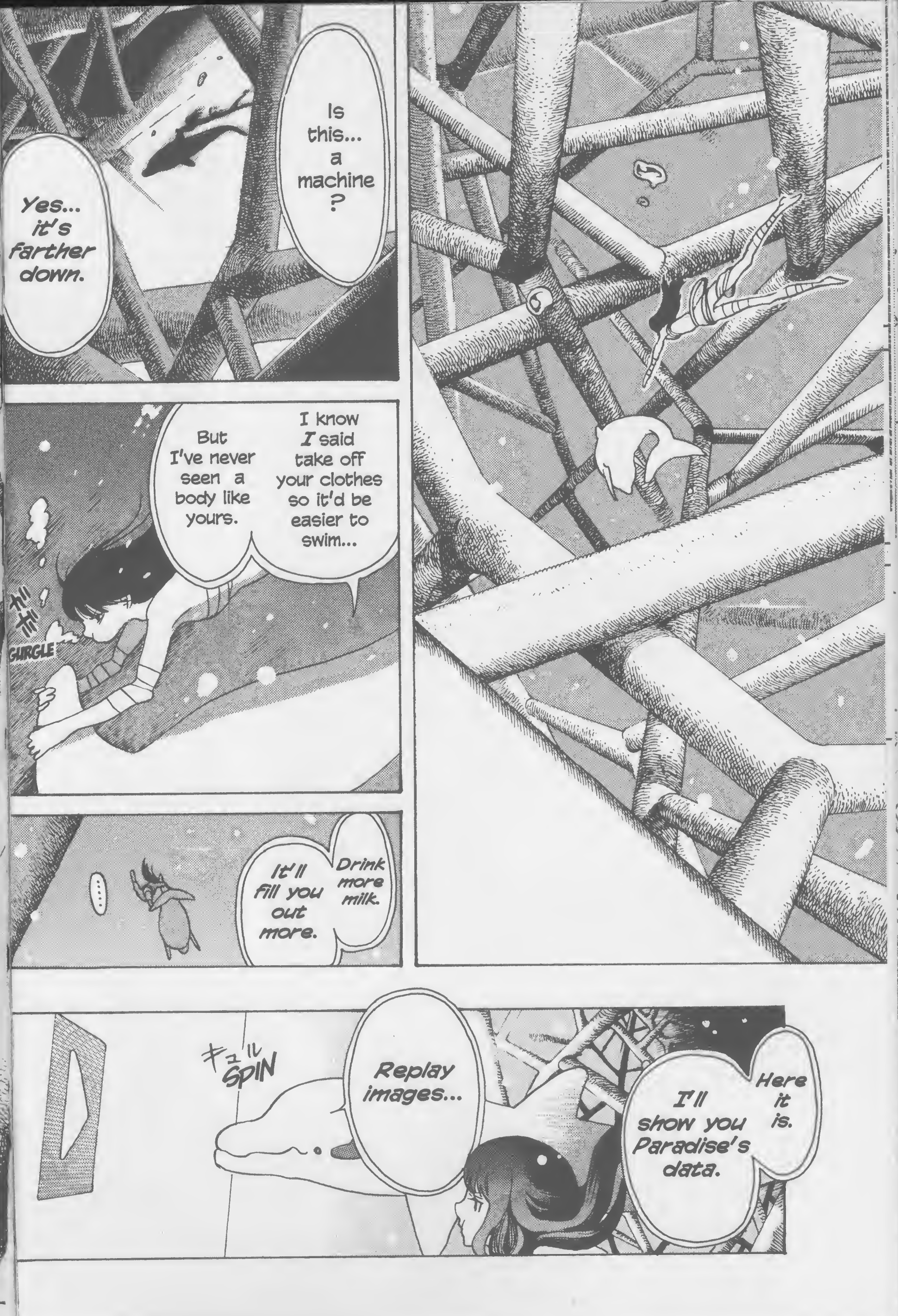

Our goal is to prove to the world that there is meaning to our existence.
And we can do that by exposing the enterprise behind your case.
The October Company.
Both the large company controlling Mardock City and Shell's casino are part of it.
They engage in illegal activities.
And Shell is supporting them by money laundering.

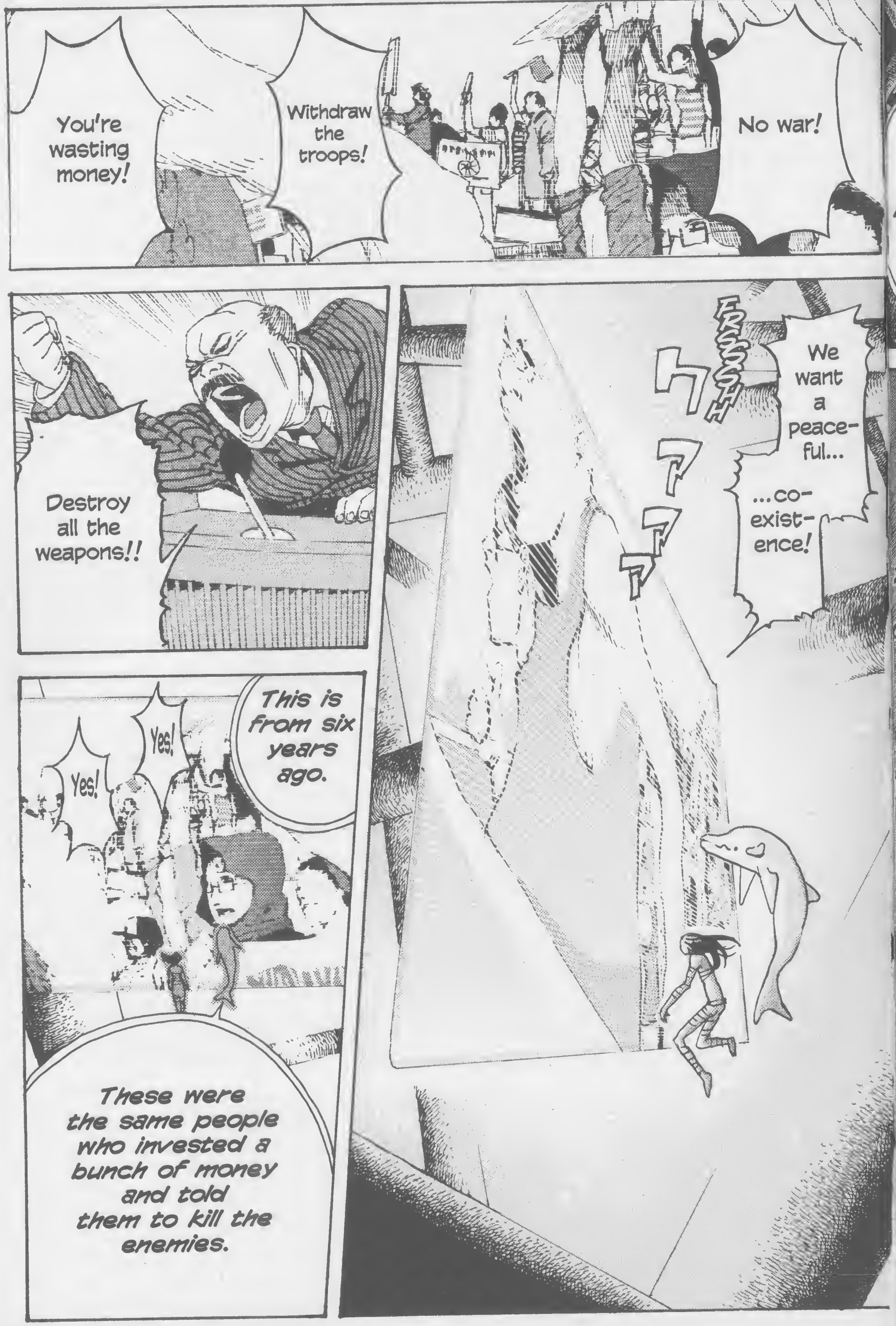

We're not just going to fight Shell, but the entire October Company!!
And if we succeed, that will prove our value to society!
It's up to you whether you want to ride on our boat with us.
You need to find out what you want.
Breathing apparatus.
You can access data within Paradise now.
Tweedledum.
Please look after Balot.
Okay.
I know what I have to do.

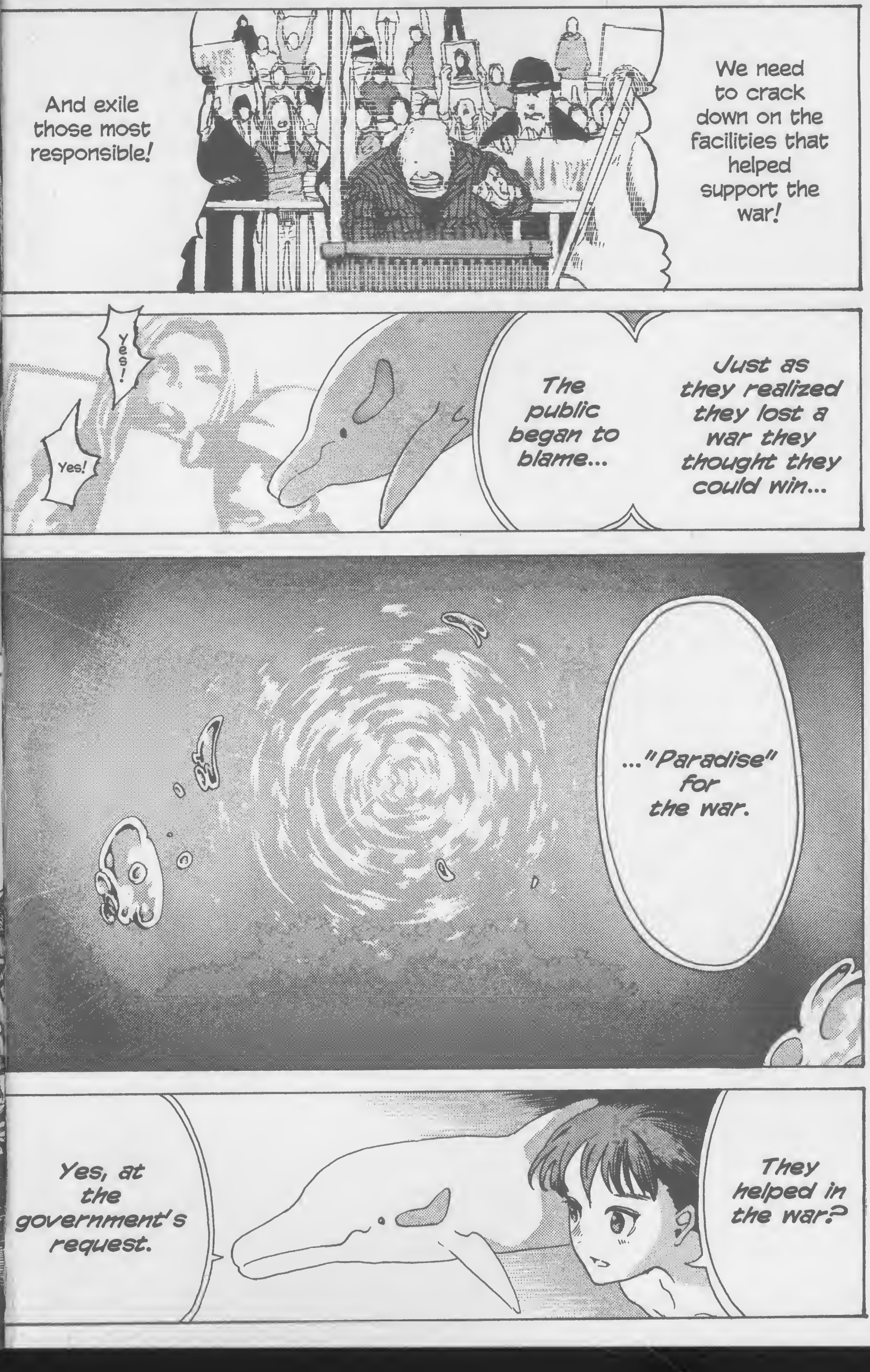

モゴモゴ MUMBLE
ズル DRAG
ズル DRAG
POP
What happened to you, Tweedle-dee?
A check-up.
ブチ POP
It's done now.
ブチ POP
ドサッ! THUD
D-Doesn't it hurt?

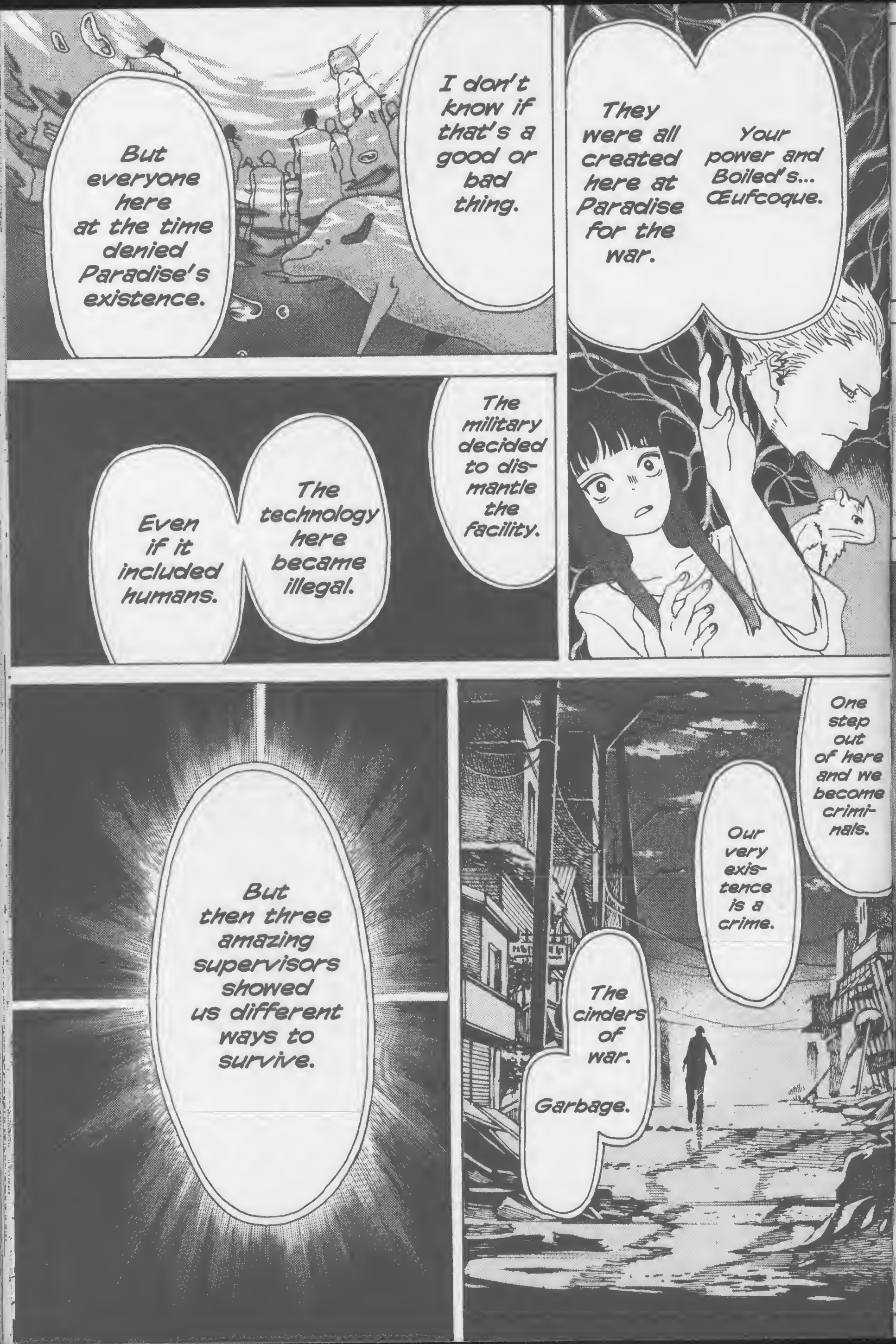

When something hurts it doesn't feel good, right?
I don't need a function like that.
Why don't you ask the doctors to make it so you can't feel pain, either?
No thanks.
Hmph.
I wonder if people on the outside are all like you.
Hm?
Heheh, nothing.
Well, I gotta go.
Work? Can I help?
No, only I can do it.
…
Be careful, Tweedledee!

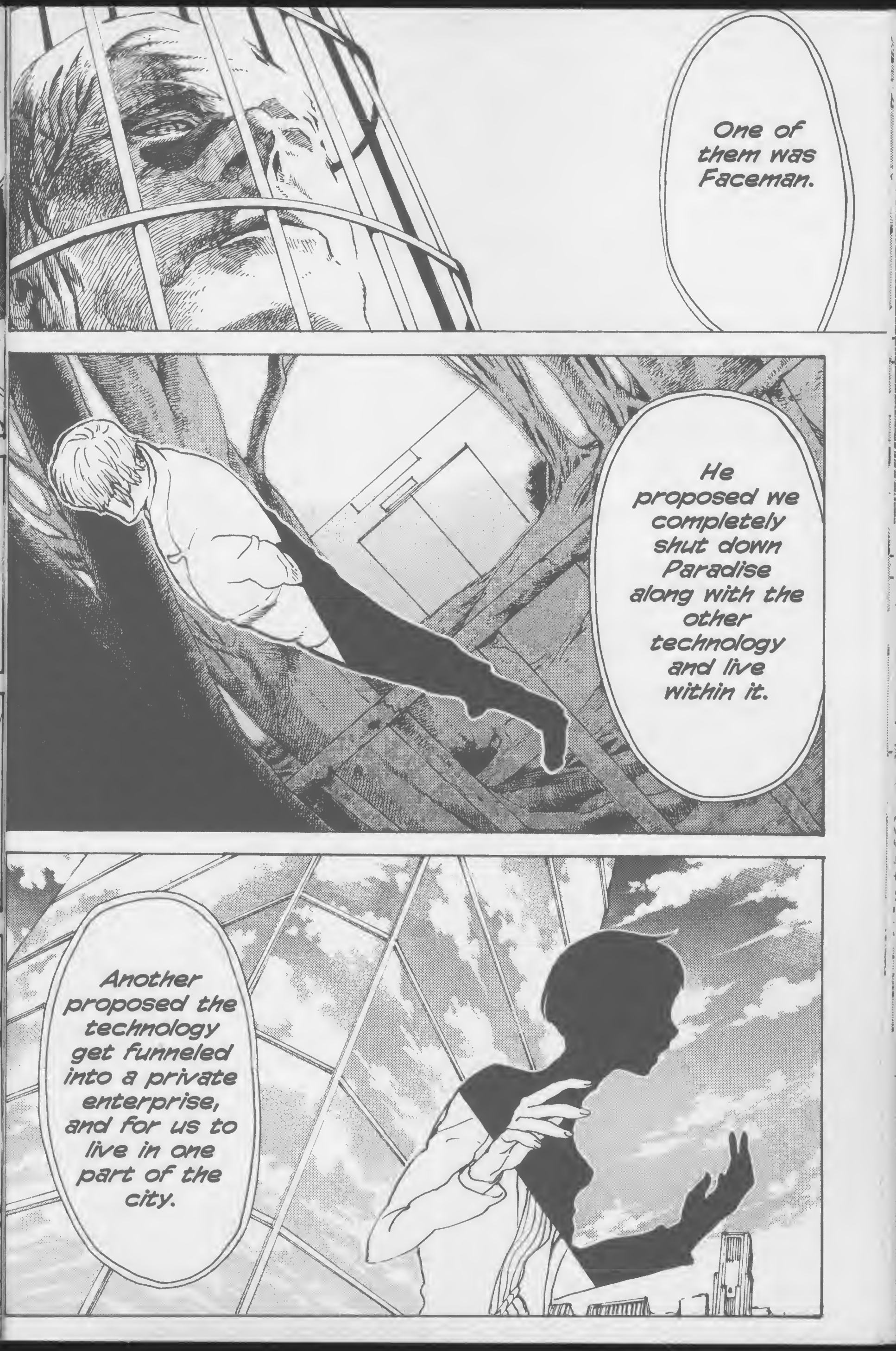

I will.
Bye!
It's so great everyone has a purpose here...
I can't do anything.
I know the feeling.
I am a dolphin, after all.

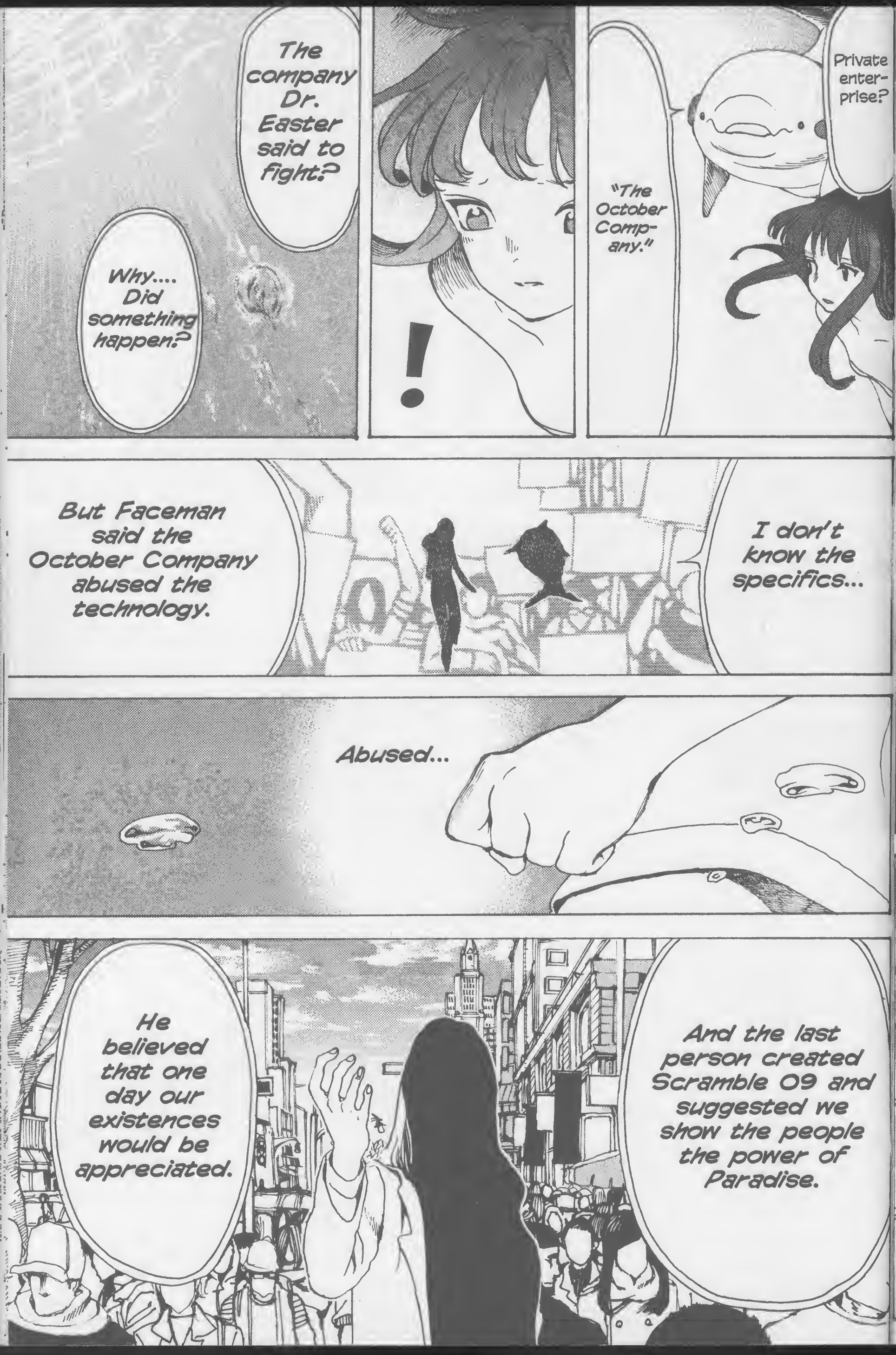

Is this... a machine?
Yes... it's farther down.
I know I said take off your clothes so it'd be easier to swim...
But I've never seen a body like yours.
ガボ
GURGLE
Drink more milk.
It'll fill you out more.
...
Here it is.
I'll show you Paradise's data.
Replay images...
キュル
SPIN

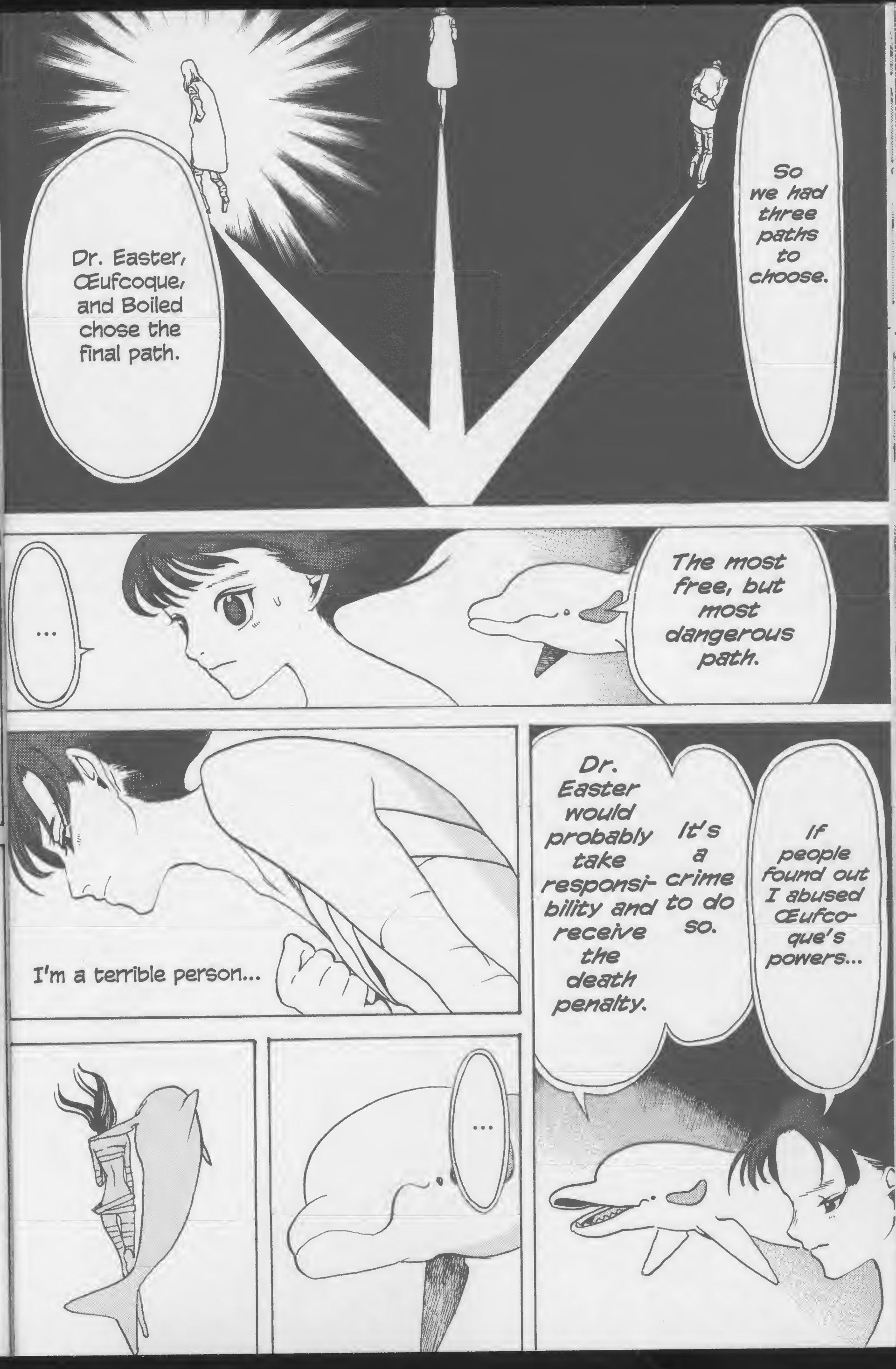

No war!
Withdraw the troops!
You're wasting money!
We want a peaceful...
...co-existence!
FRSSSH
ウァァァァ
Destroy all the weapons!!
This is from six years ago.
Yes!
Yes!
These were the same people who invested a bunch of money and told them to kill the enemies.

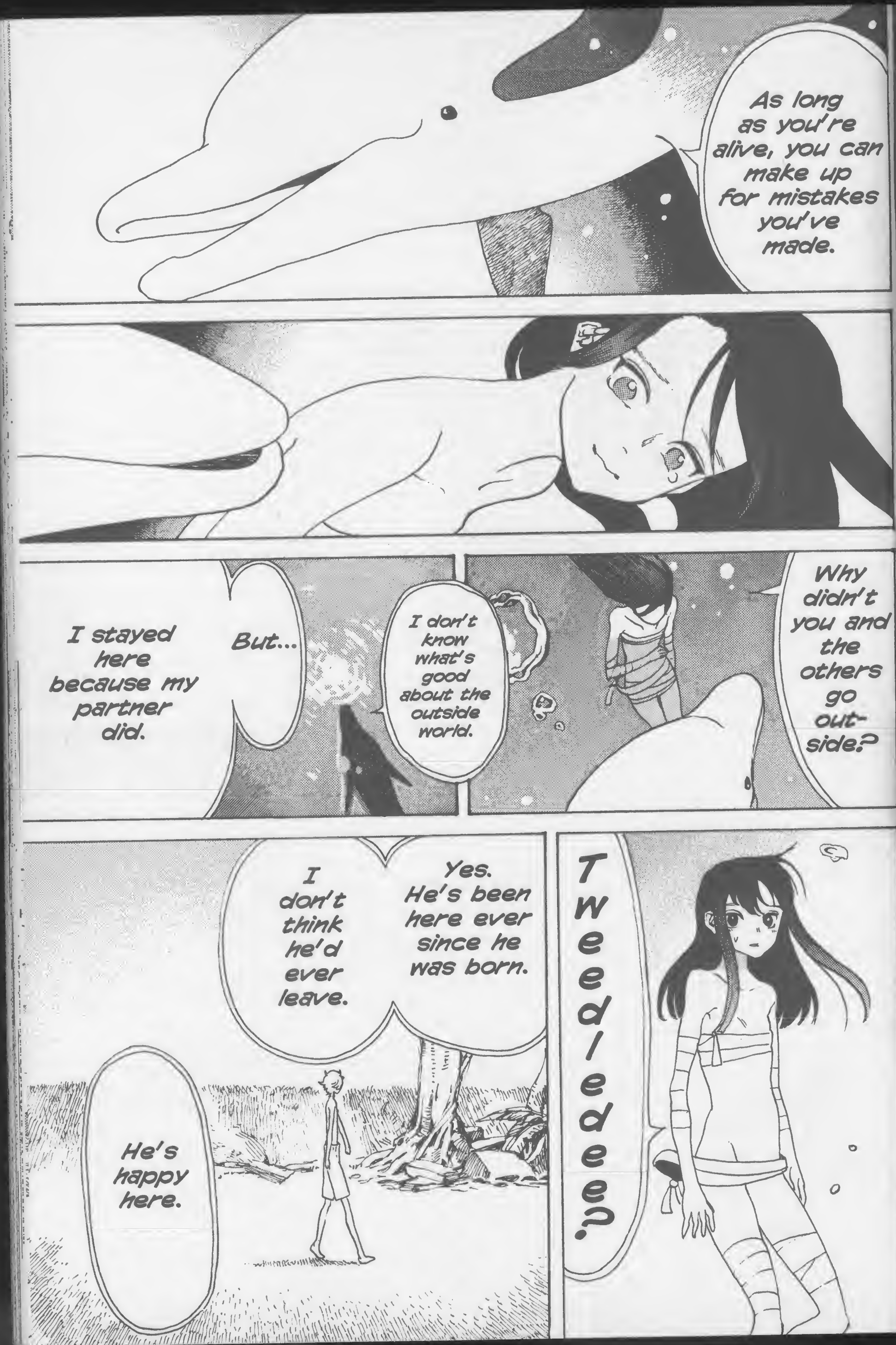

We need to crack down on the facilities that helped support the war!
And exile those most responsible!
Just as they realized they lost a war they thought they could win...
The public began to blame...
Yes!
Yes!
..."Paradise" for the war.
They helped in the war?
Yes, at the government's request.

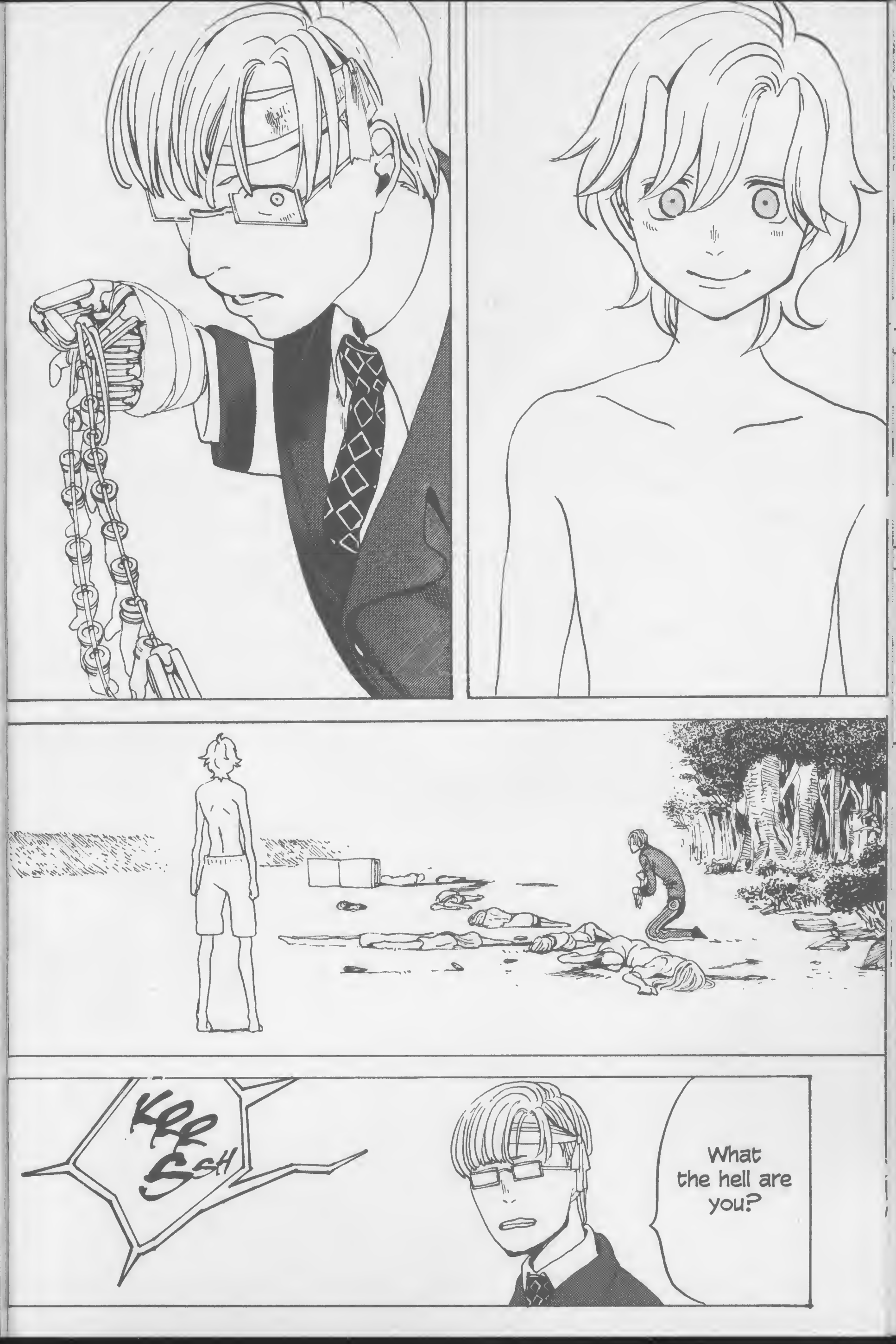

Your power and Boiled's... Œufcoque.
They were all created here at Paradise for the war.
I don't know if that's a good or bad thing.
But everyone here at the time denied Paradise's existence.
The military decided to dismantle the facility.
The technology here became illegal.
Even if it included humans.
One step out of here and we become criminals.
Our very existence is a crime.
The cinders of war.
Garbage.
But then three amazing supervisors showed us different ways to survive.

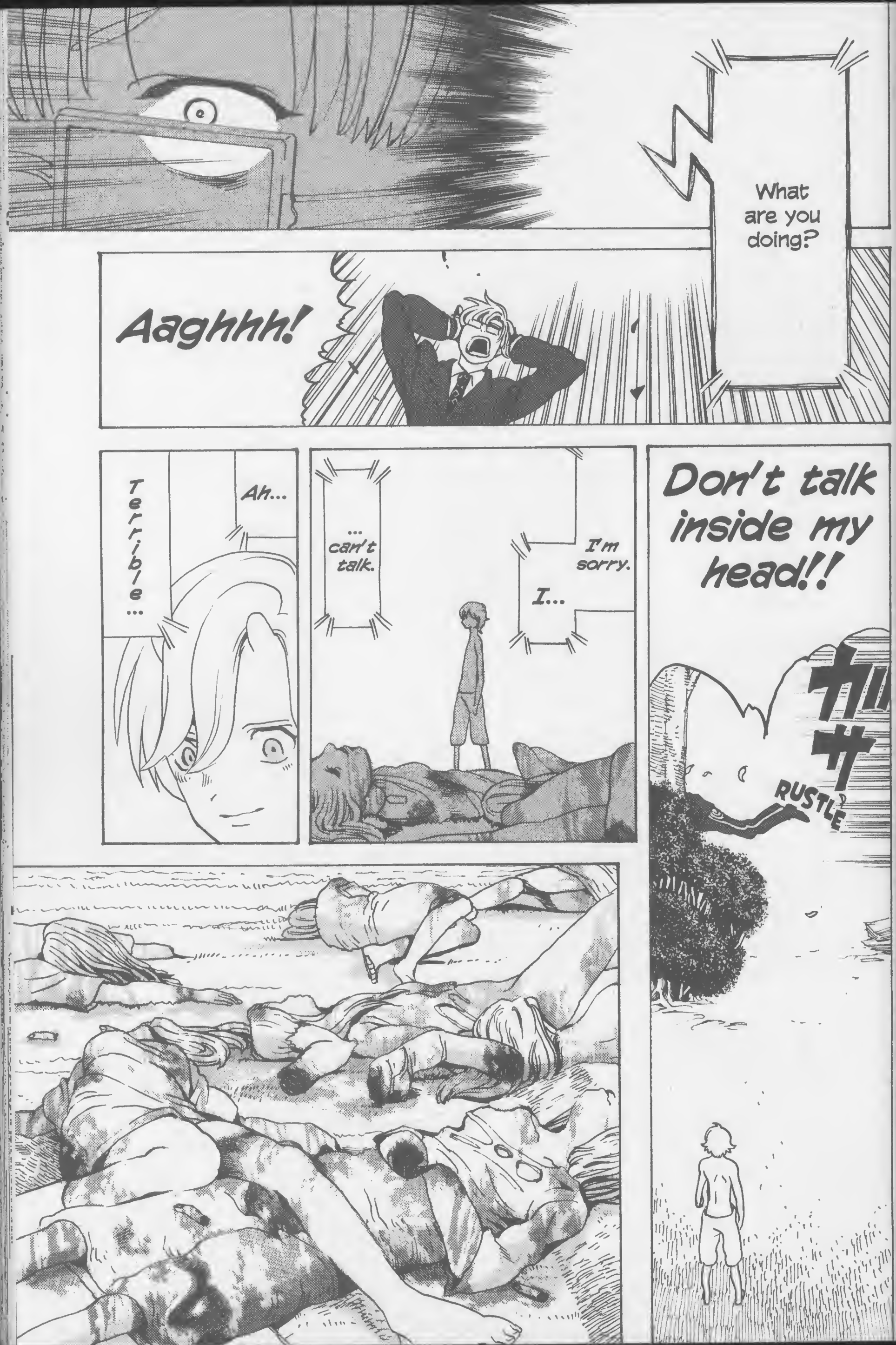

One of them was Faceman.
He proposed we completely shut down Paradise along with the other technology and live within it.
Another proposed the technology get funneled into a private enterprise, and for us to live in one part of the city.

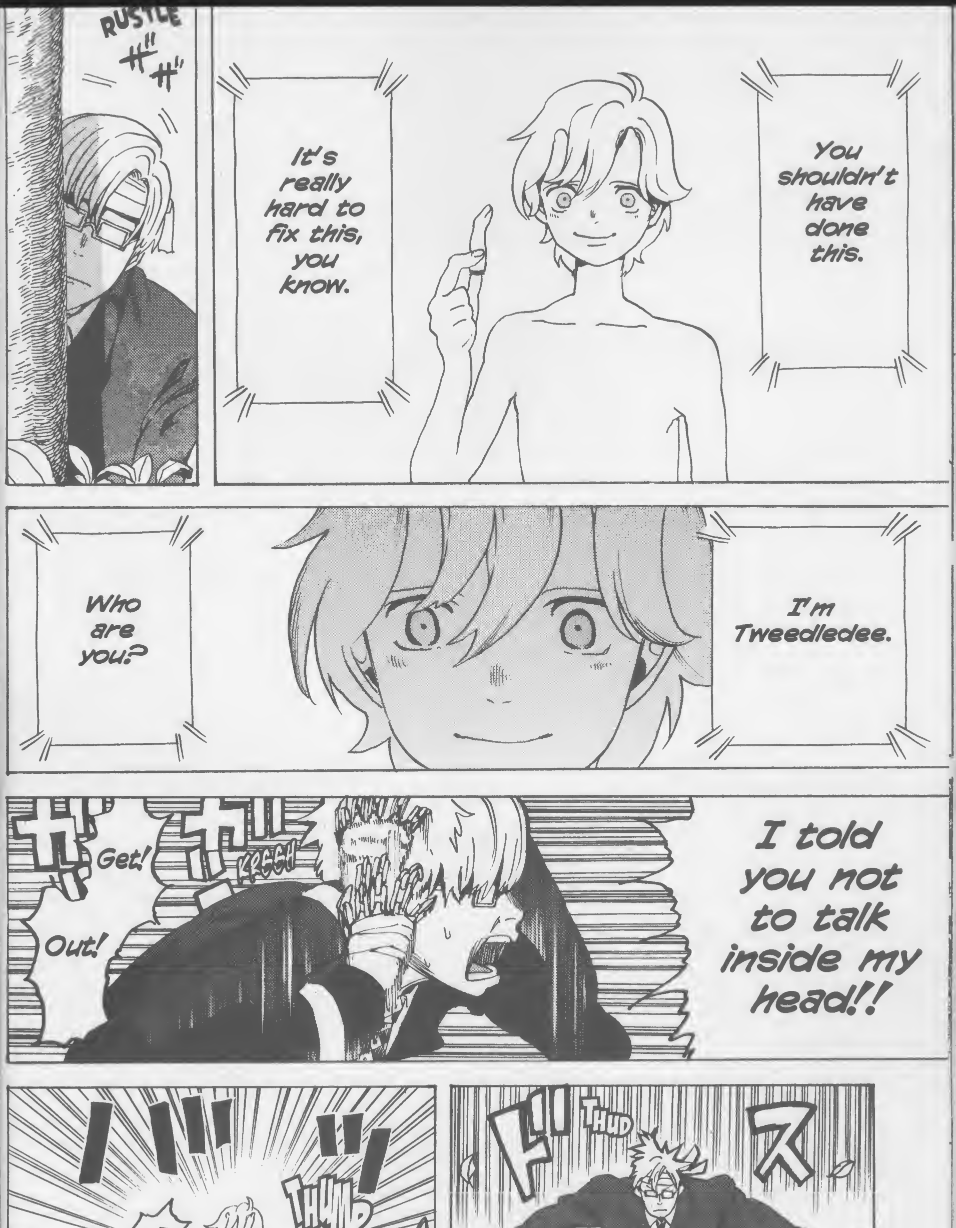

Private enterprise?
"The October Company."
!
The company Dr. Easter said to fight?
Why.... Did something happen?
I don't know the specifics...
But Faceman said the October Company abused the technology.
Abused...
And the last person created Scramble 09 and suggested we show the people the power of Paradise.
He believed that one day our existences would be appreciated.

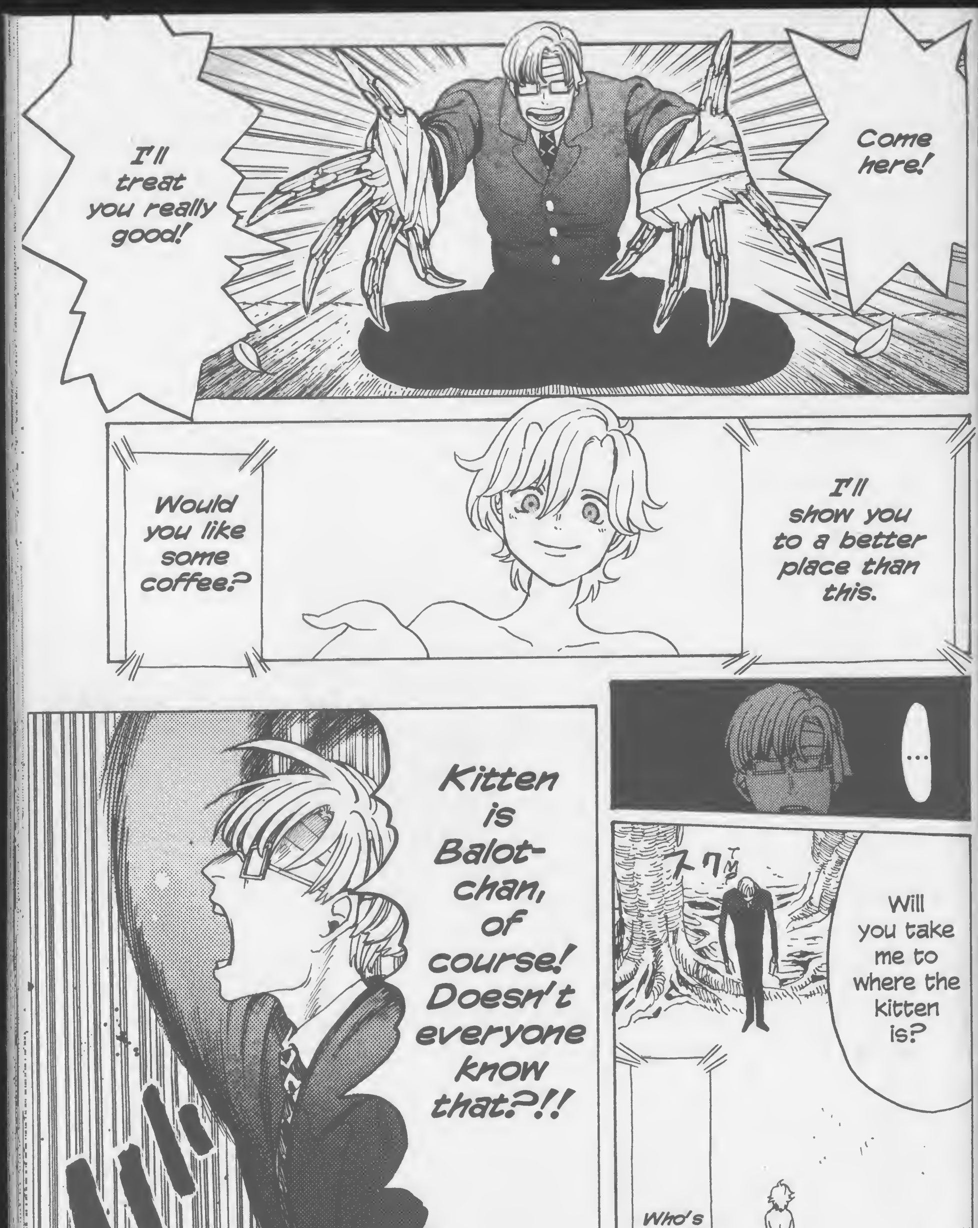

So we had three paths to choose.
Dr. Easter, Œufcoque, and Boiled chose the final path.
The most free, but most dangerous path.
...
If people found out I abused Œufcoque's powers...
It's a crime to do so.
Dr. Easter would probably take responsibility and receive the death penalty.
I'm a terrible person...
...

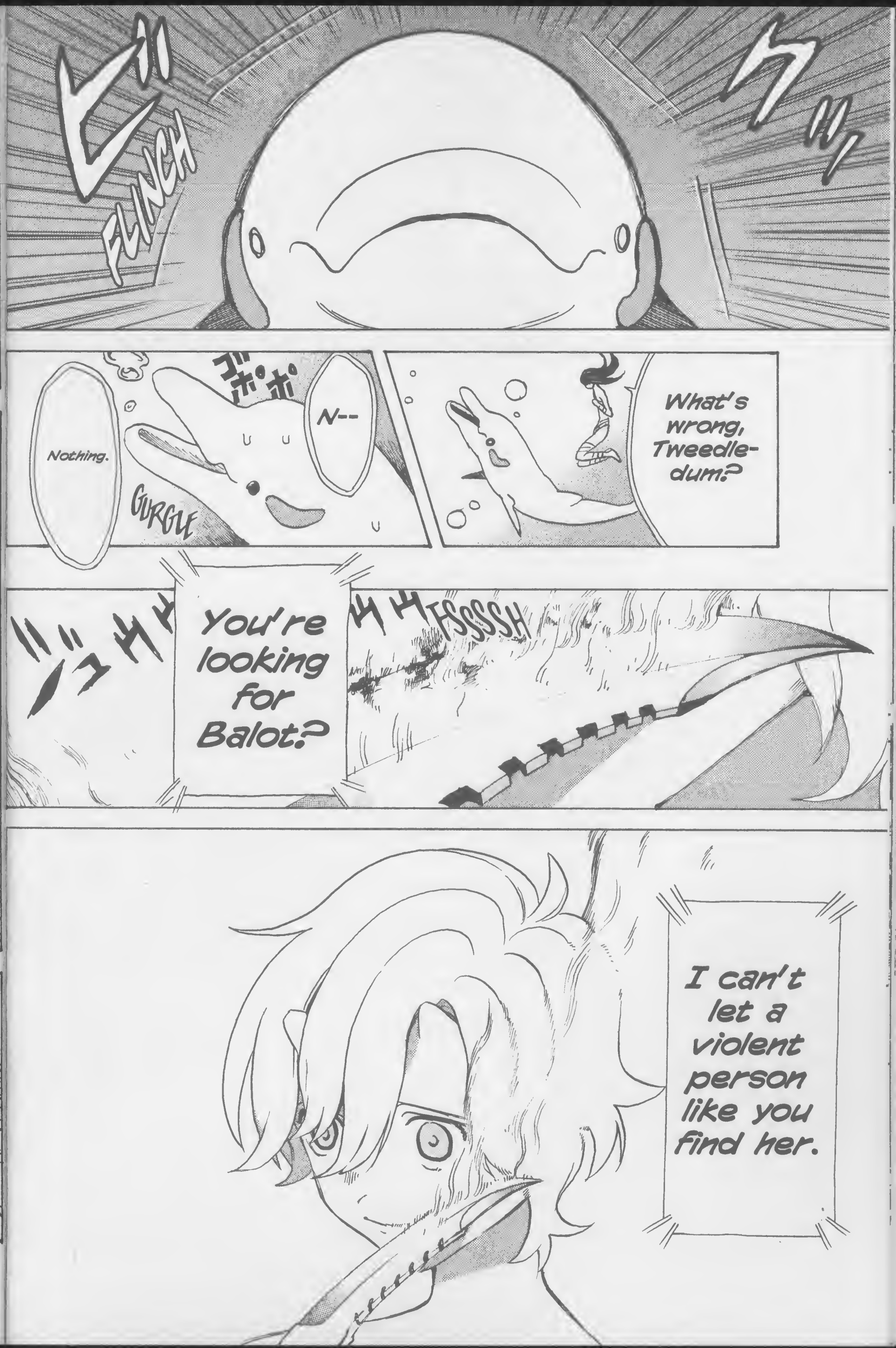

As long as you're alive, you can make up for mistakes you've made.
Why didn't you and the others go outside?
I don't know what's good about the outside world.
But...
I stayed here because my partner did.
Tweedledee?
Yes. He's been here ever since he was born.
I don't think he'd ever leave.
He's happy here.

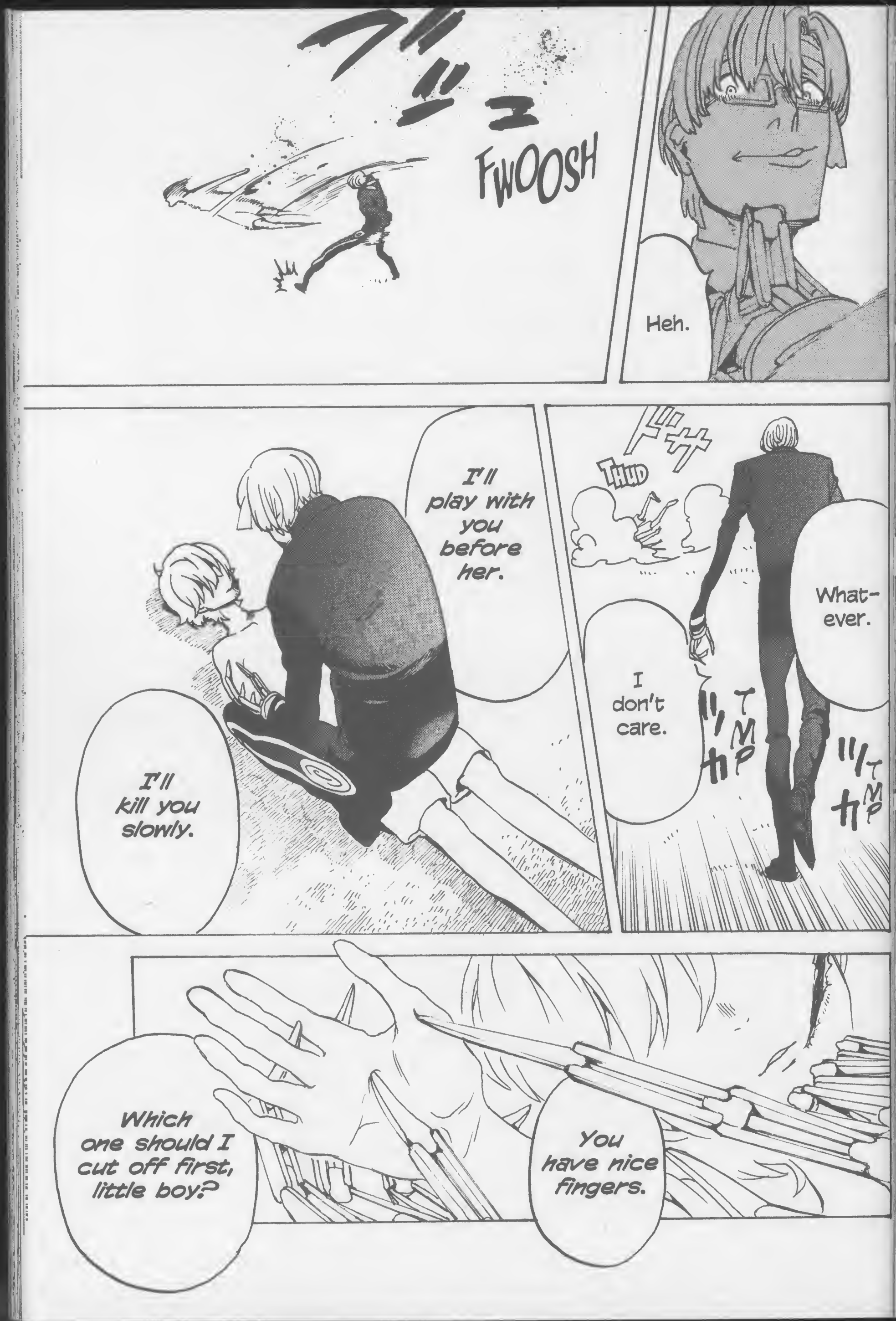

What the hell are you?
KRRSSH

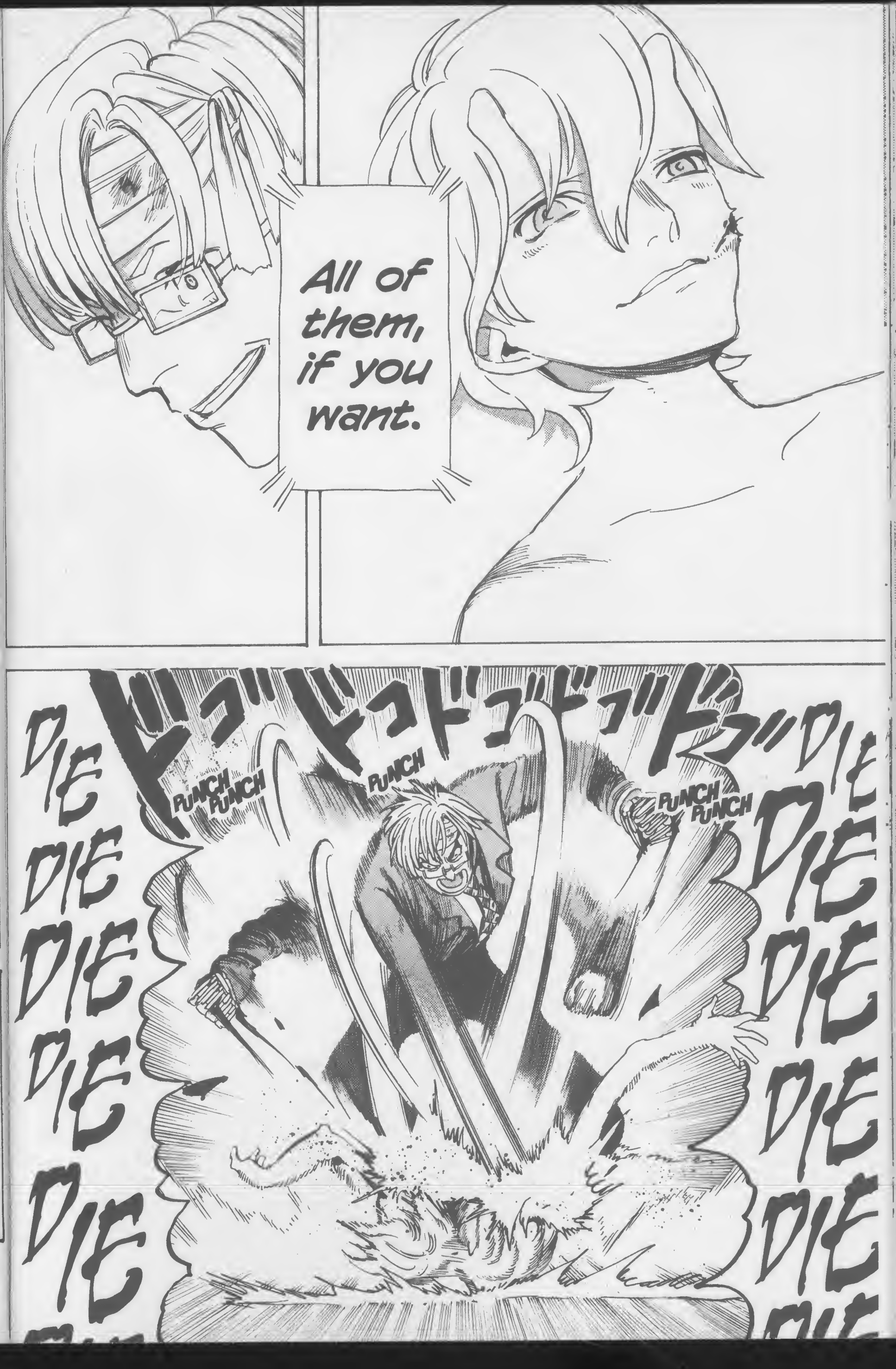

What are you doing?
Aaghhh!
Don't talk inside my head!!
カサ
RUSTLE
I'm sorry.
I...
... can't talk.
Ah...
Terrible...

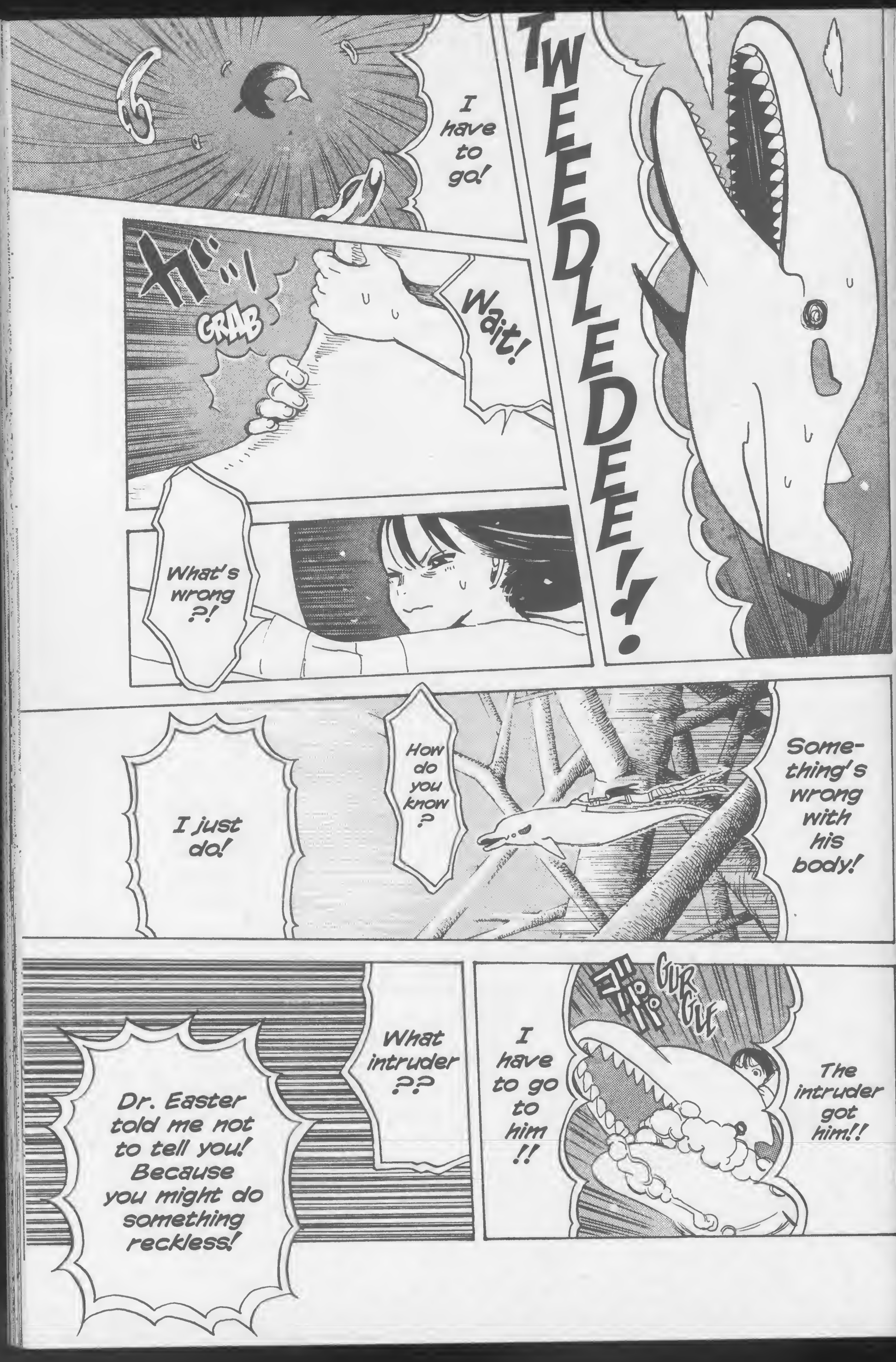

RUSTLE
You shouldn't have done this.
It's really hard to fix this, you know.
I'm Tweedledee.
Who are you?
I told you not to talk inside my head!!
Get!
Out!
THUD
THUMP
!

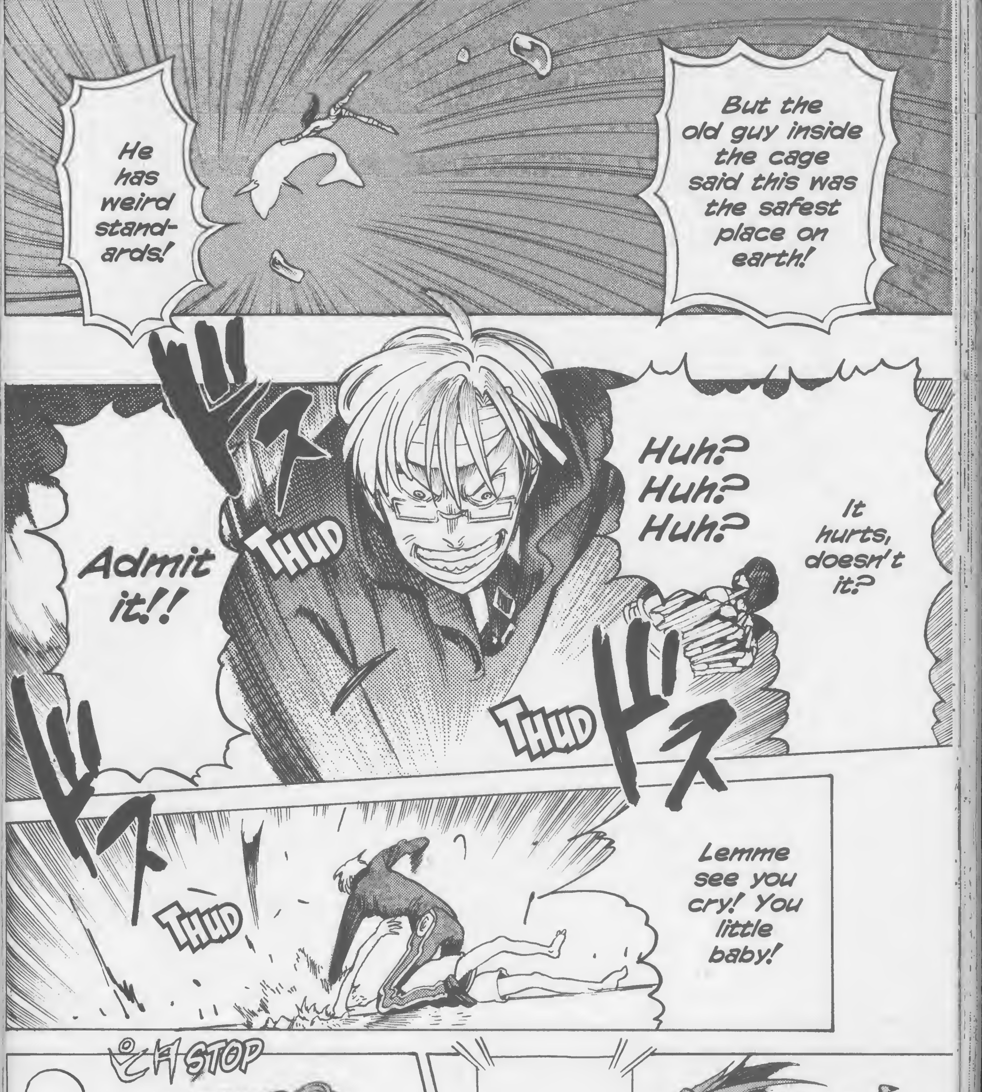

Come here!
I'll treat you really good!
I'll show you to a better place than this.
Would you like some coffee?
...
Will you take me to where the kitten is?
Who's that?
Kitten is Balot-chan, of course! Doesn't everyone know that?!!
FWOOSH

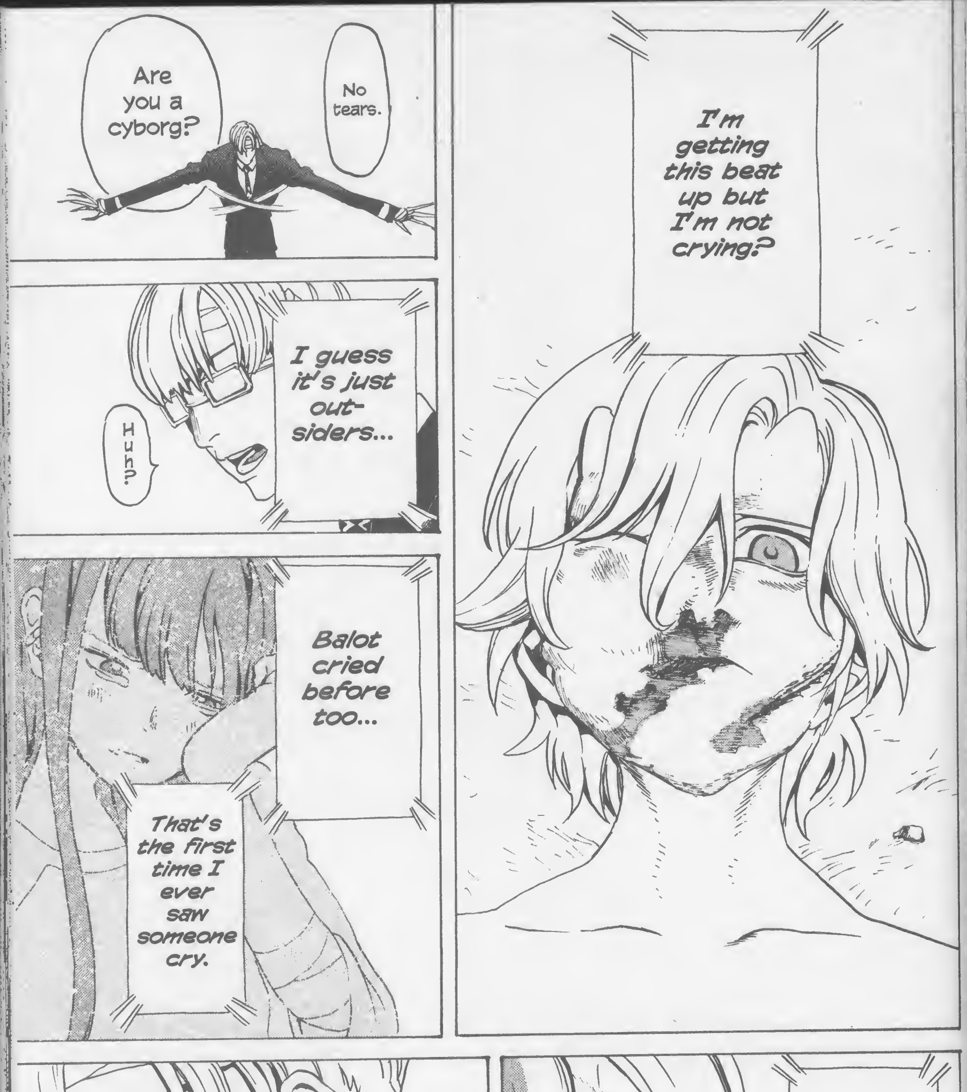

FLINCH
What's wrong, Tweedledum?
N--
GURGLE
Nothing.
FSSSSH
You're looking for Balot?
I can't let a violent person like you find her.

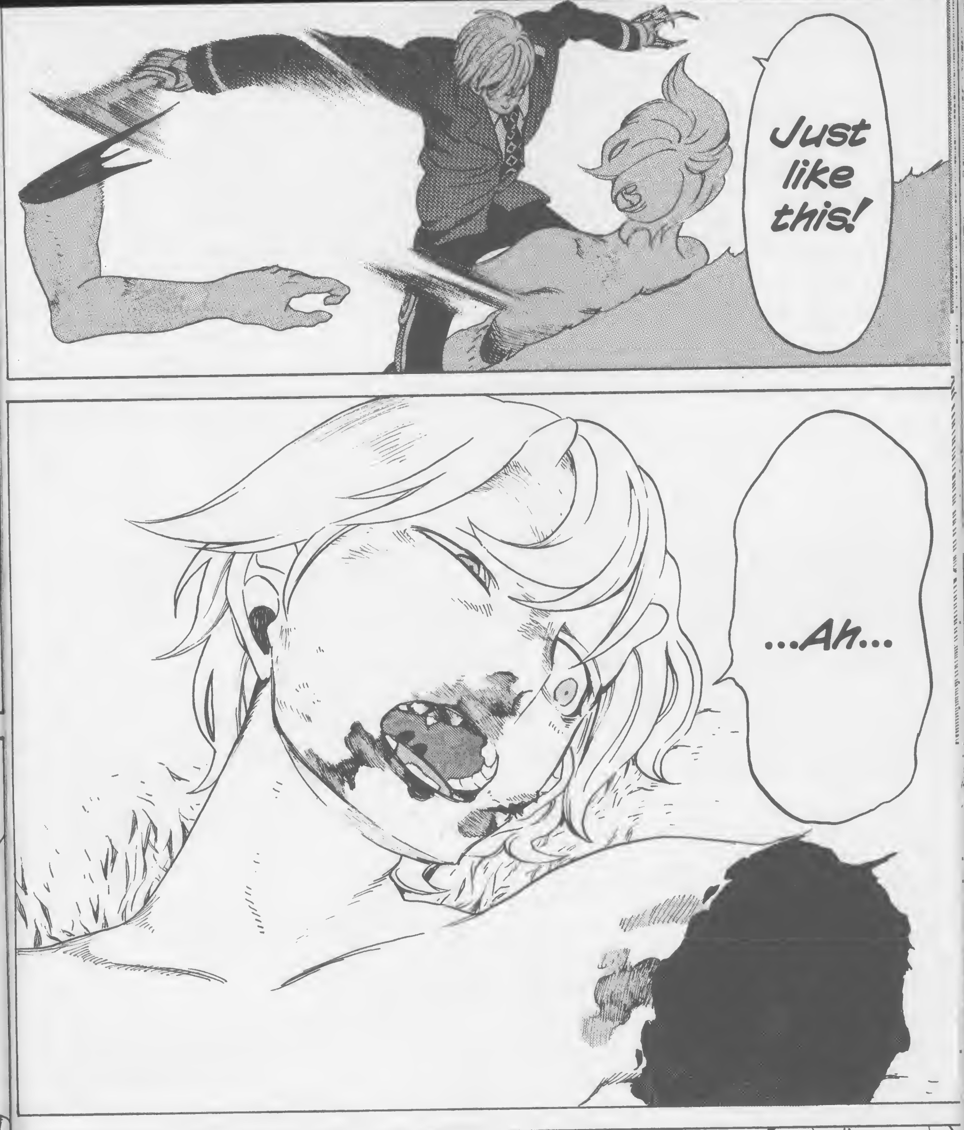

Heh.
FWOOSH
THUD
Whatever.
I don't care.
TMP
TMP
I'll play with you before her.
I'll kill you slowly.
You have nice fingers.
Which one should I cut off first, little boy?

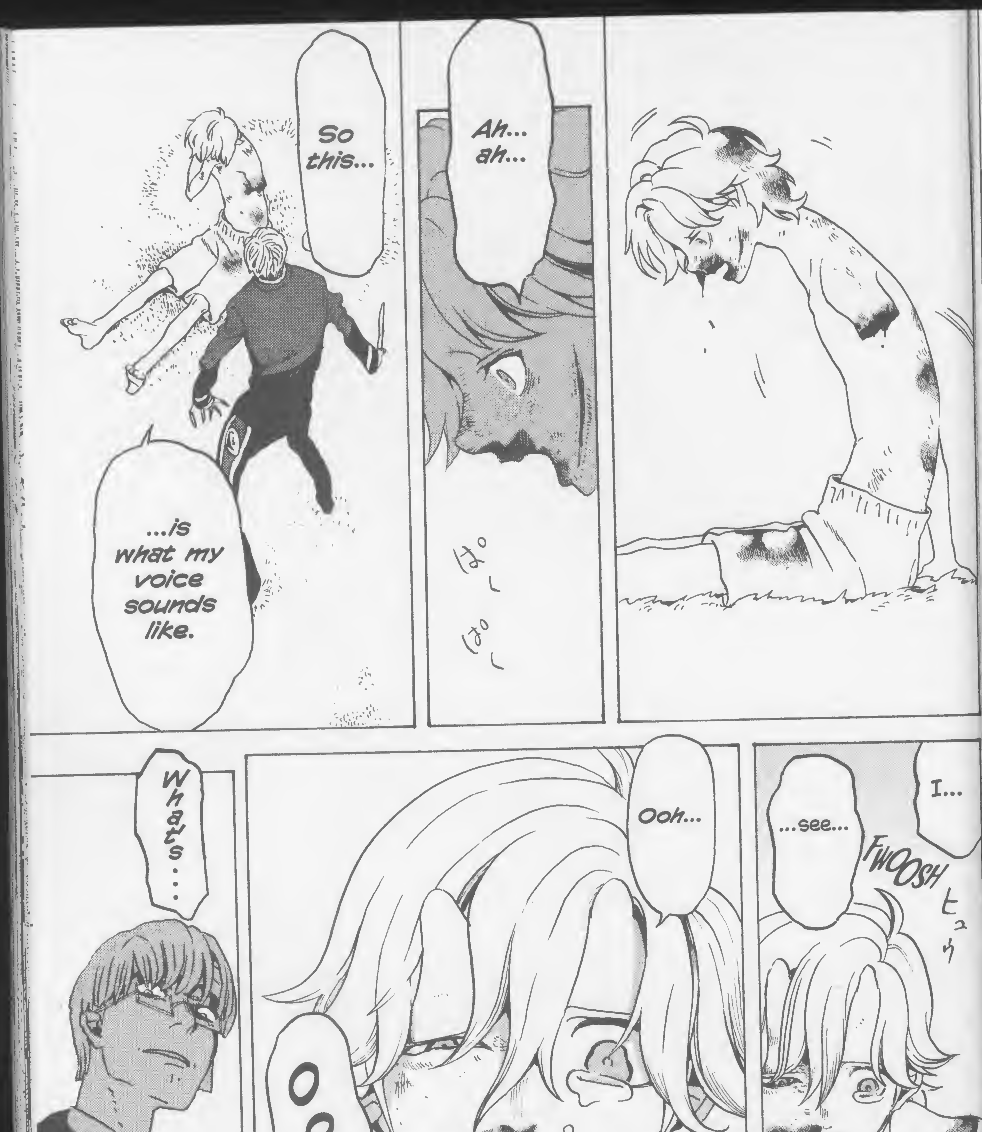

All of them, if you want.
PUNCH PUNCH
PUNCH
PUNCH PUNCH
DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE
DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE

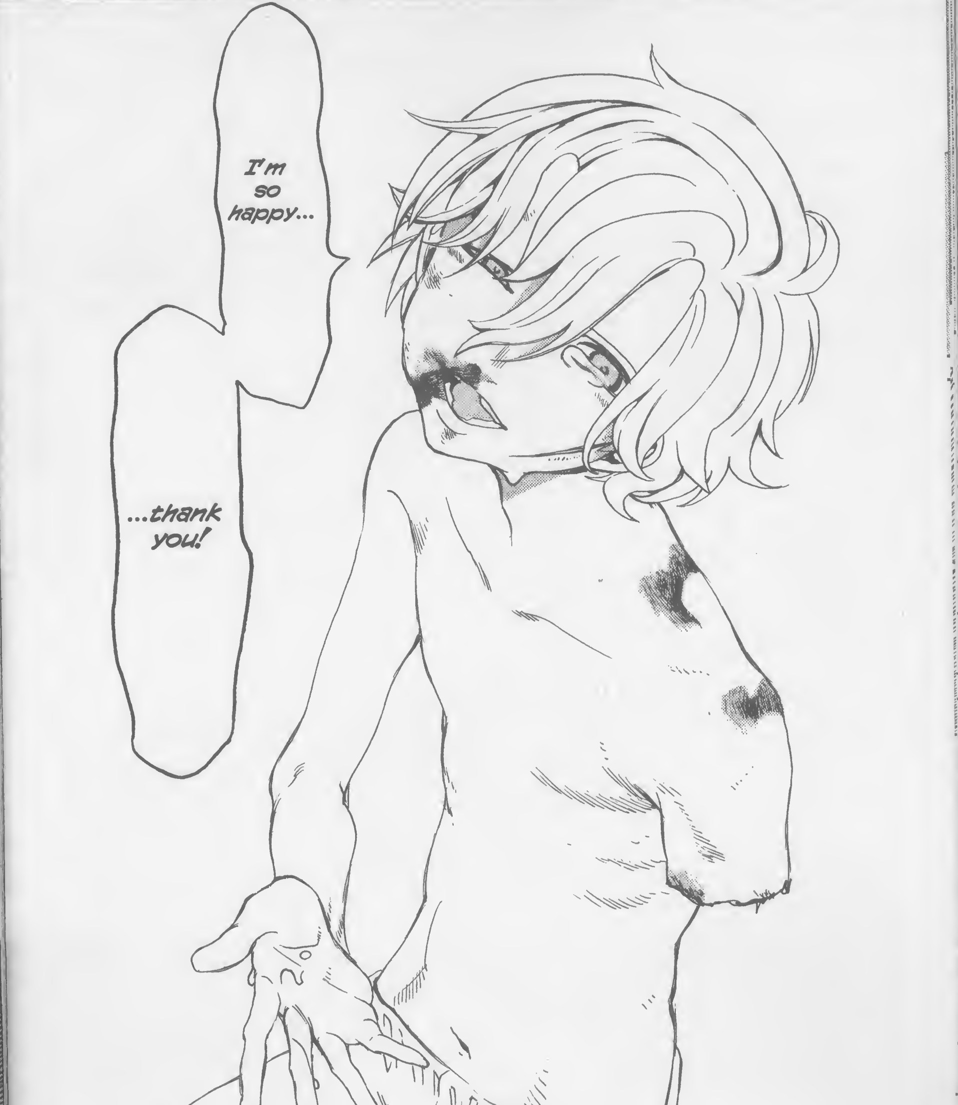

TWEEDLEDEE!!
I have to go!
GRAB
Wait!
What's wrong?!
Something's wrong with his body!
How do you know?
I just do!
GURGLE
The intruder got him!!
I have to go to him!!
What intruder??
Dr. Easter told me not to tell you! Because you might do something reckless!

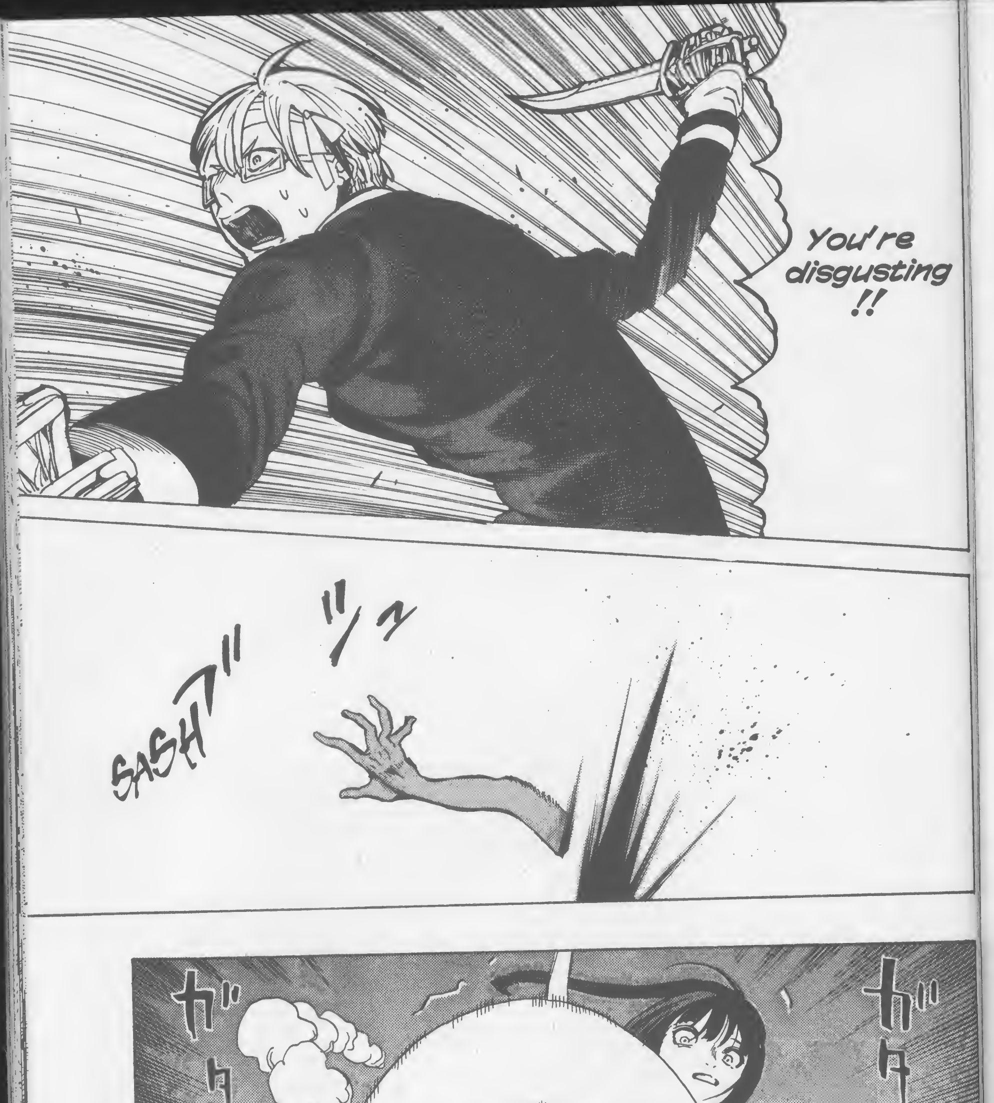

But the old guy inside the cage said this was the safest place on earth!
He has weird standards!
Huh? Huh? Huh?
It hurts, doesn't it?
Admit it!!
ドス
THUD
ドス
THUD
Lemme see you cry! You little baby!
ドス
THUD
I'm not crying?
ピタ STOP
Huh ??

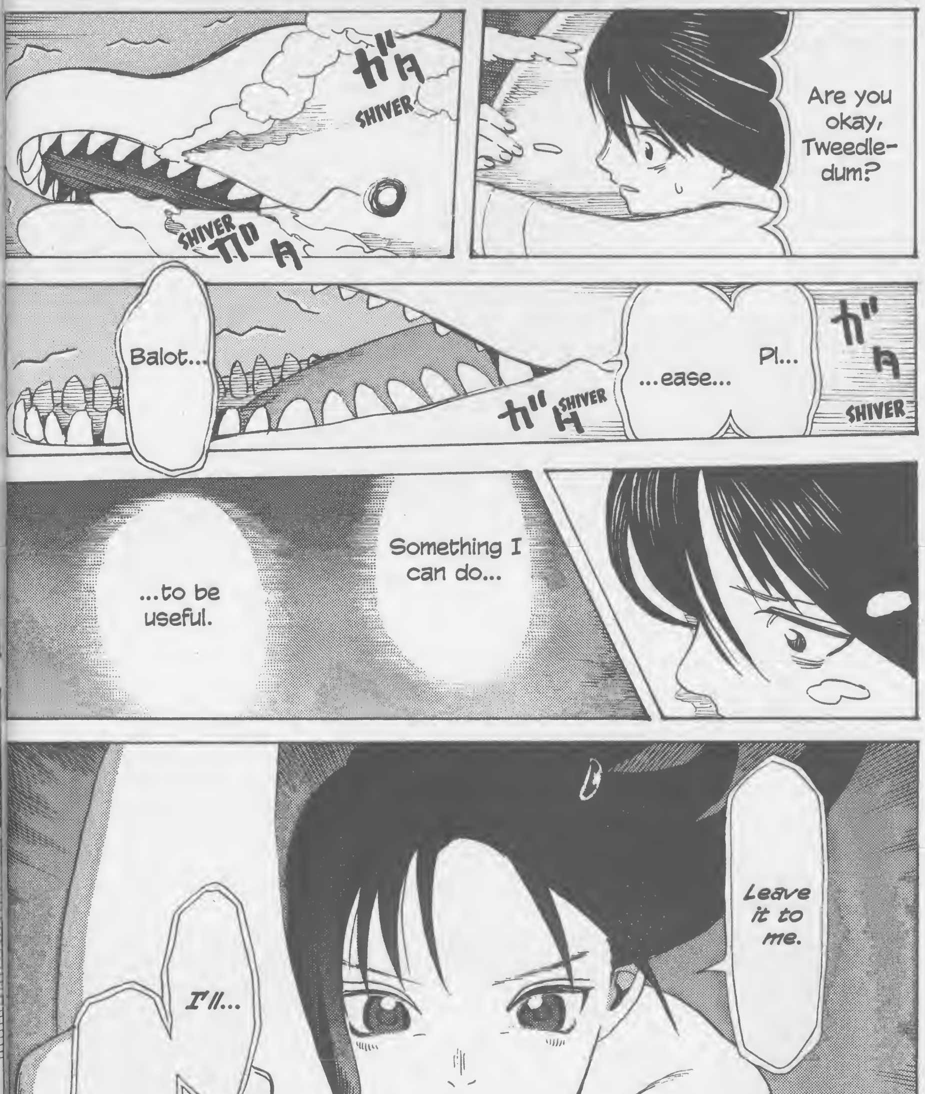

I'm getting this beat up but I'm not crying?
No tears.
Are you a cyborg?
I guess it's just outsiders...
Huh?
Balot cried before too...
That's the first time I ever saw someone cry.
I cried too...
...when she killed all my friends!!

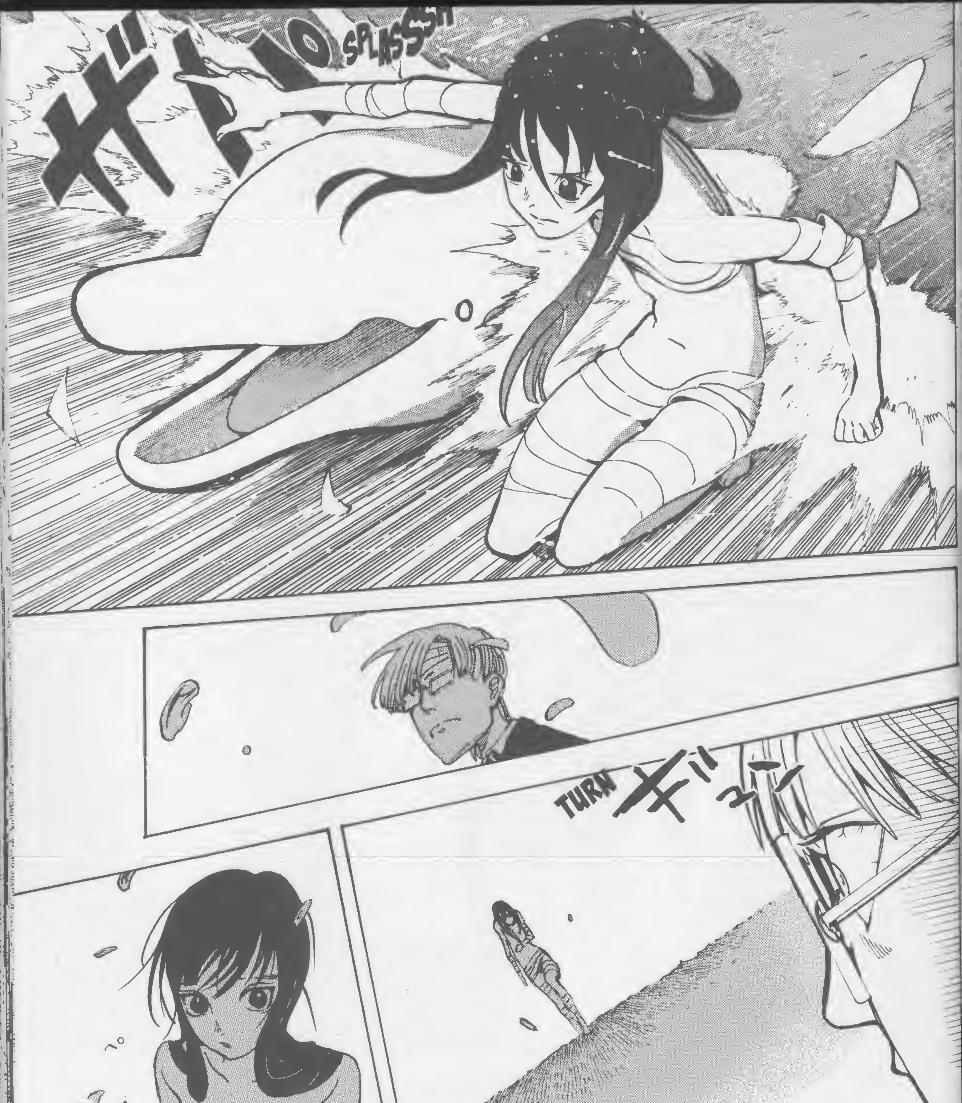

Just like this!
...Ah...

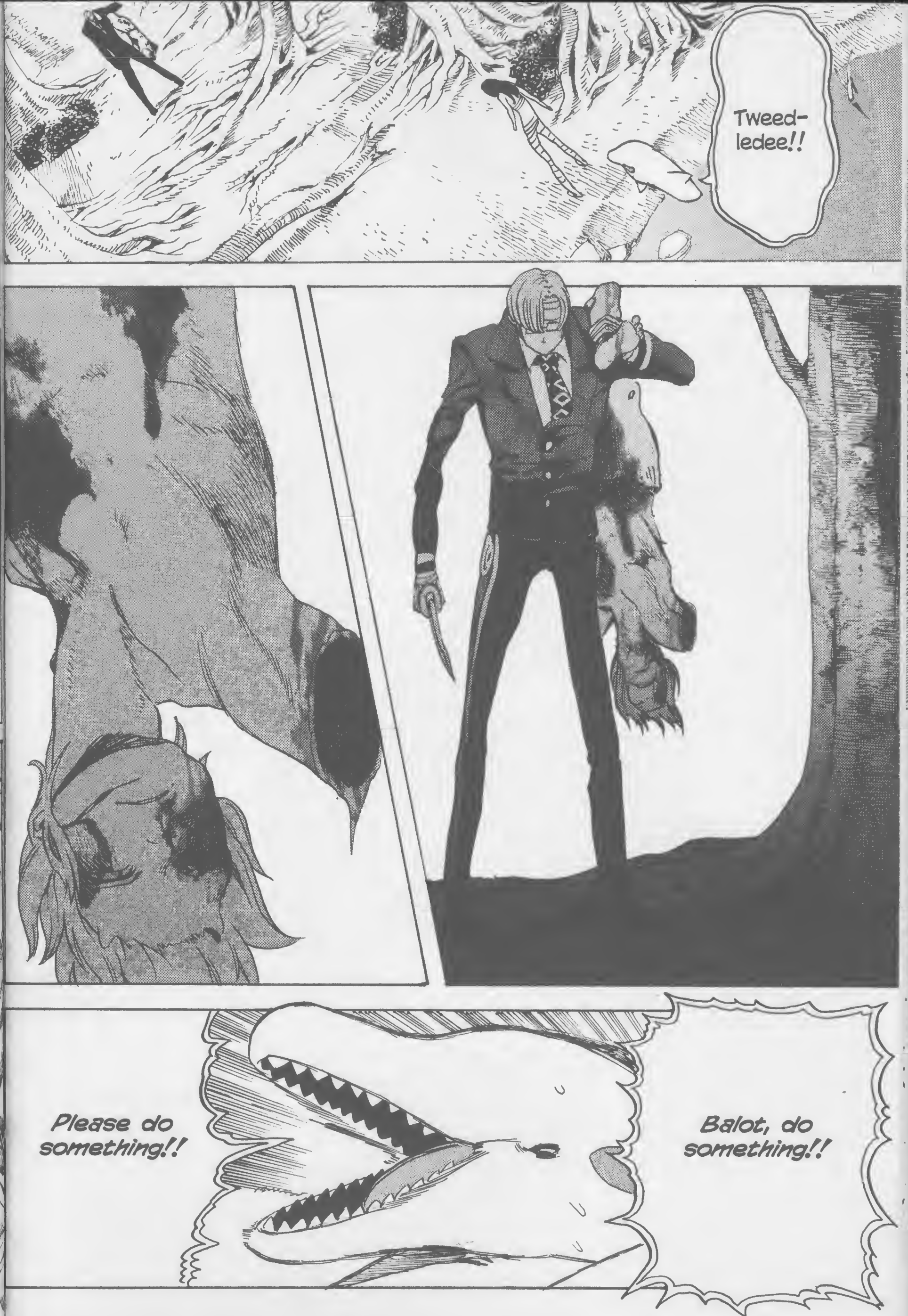

Ah... ah...
ぱし ぱし
So this...
...is what my voice sounds like.
I...
...see...
FWOOSH
ヒュウ
Ooh...
Ooohhh...
What's...
...with you?

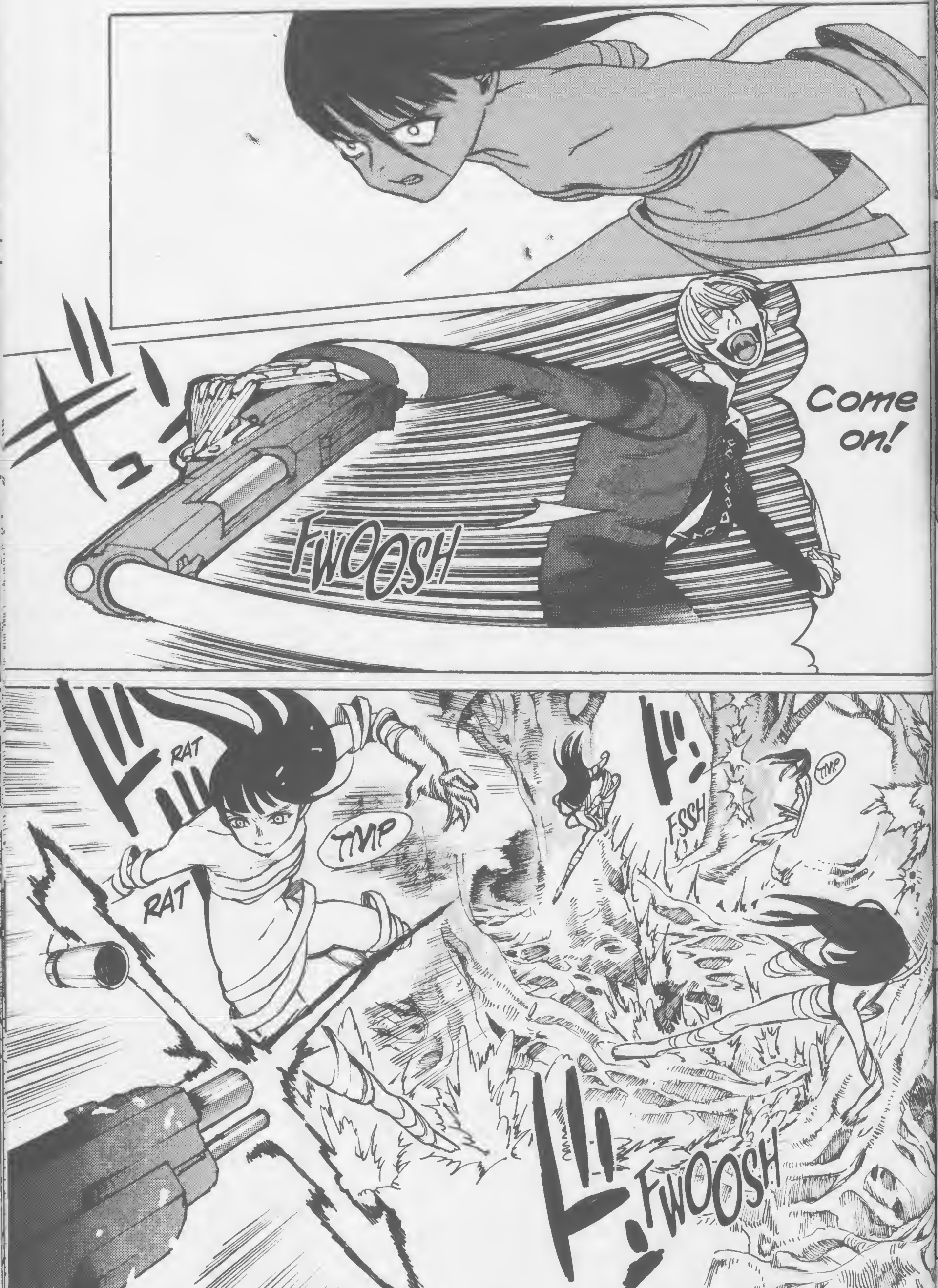

I'm so happy...
...thank you!

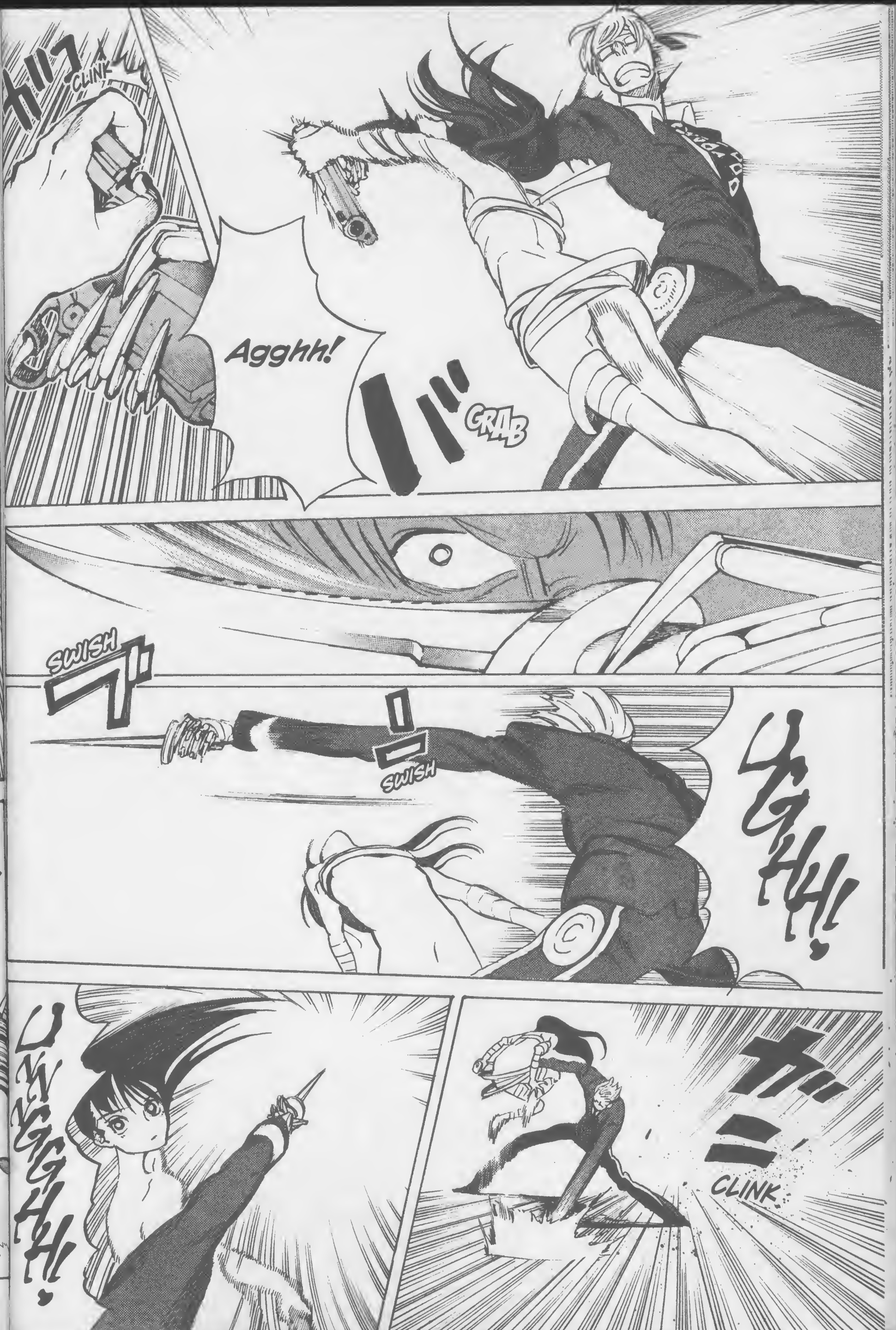

You're disgusting!!
ツッ
SASH
ガタ SHIVER
ガタ SHIVER
ガタ SHIVER
ガタ SHIVER

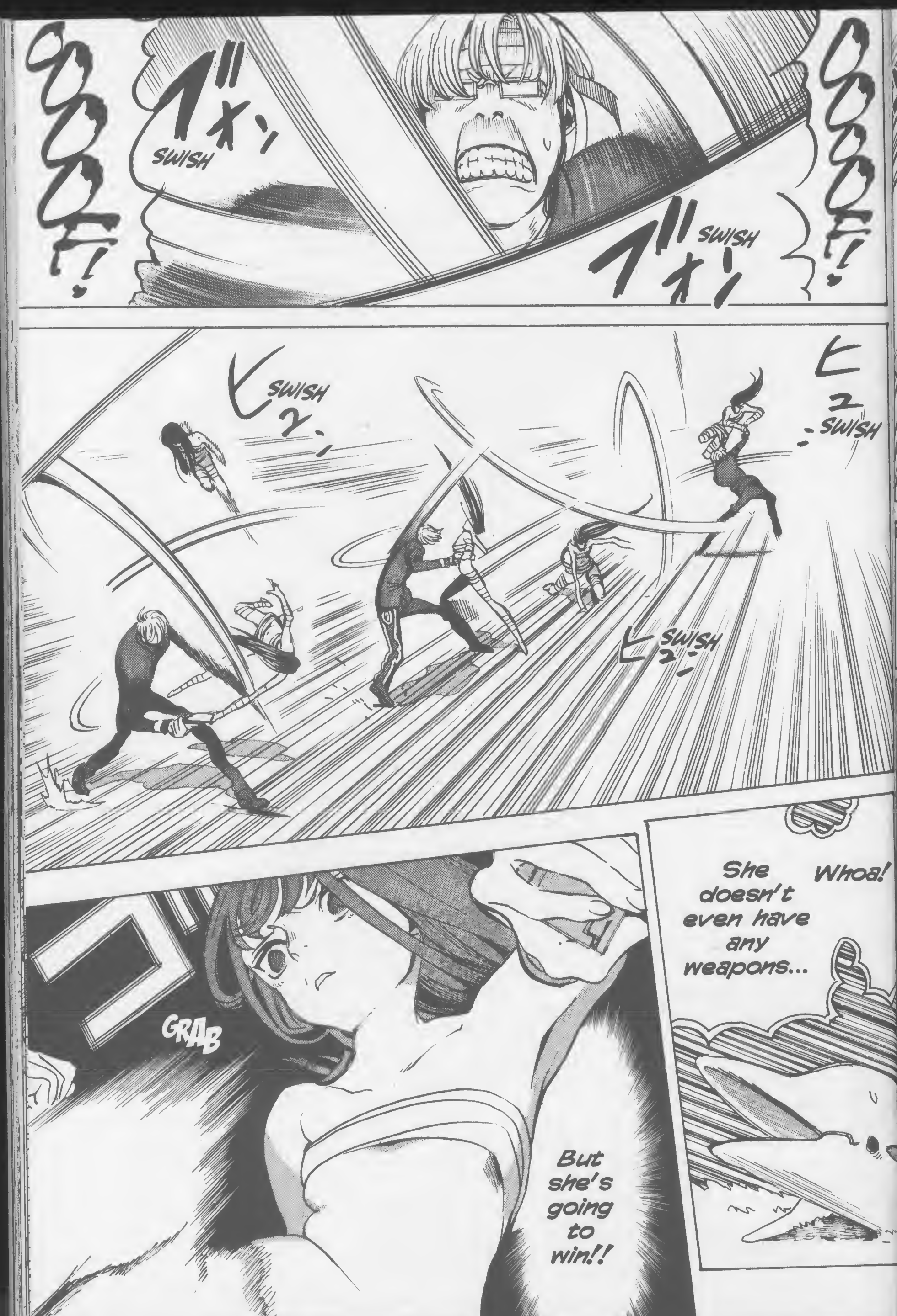

ガタ
SHIVER
SHIVER
ガタ
Are you okay, Tweedledum?
ガタ
SHIVER
Pl...
...ease...
Balot...
SHIVER
ガタ
Something I can do...
...to be useful.
Leave it to me.
I'll...
...fight!

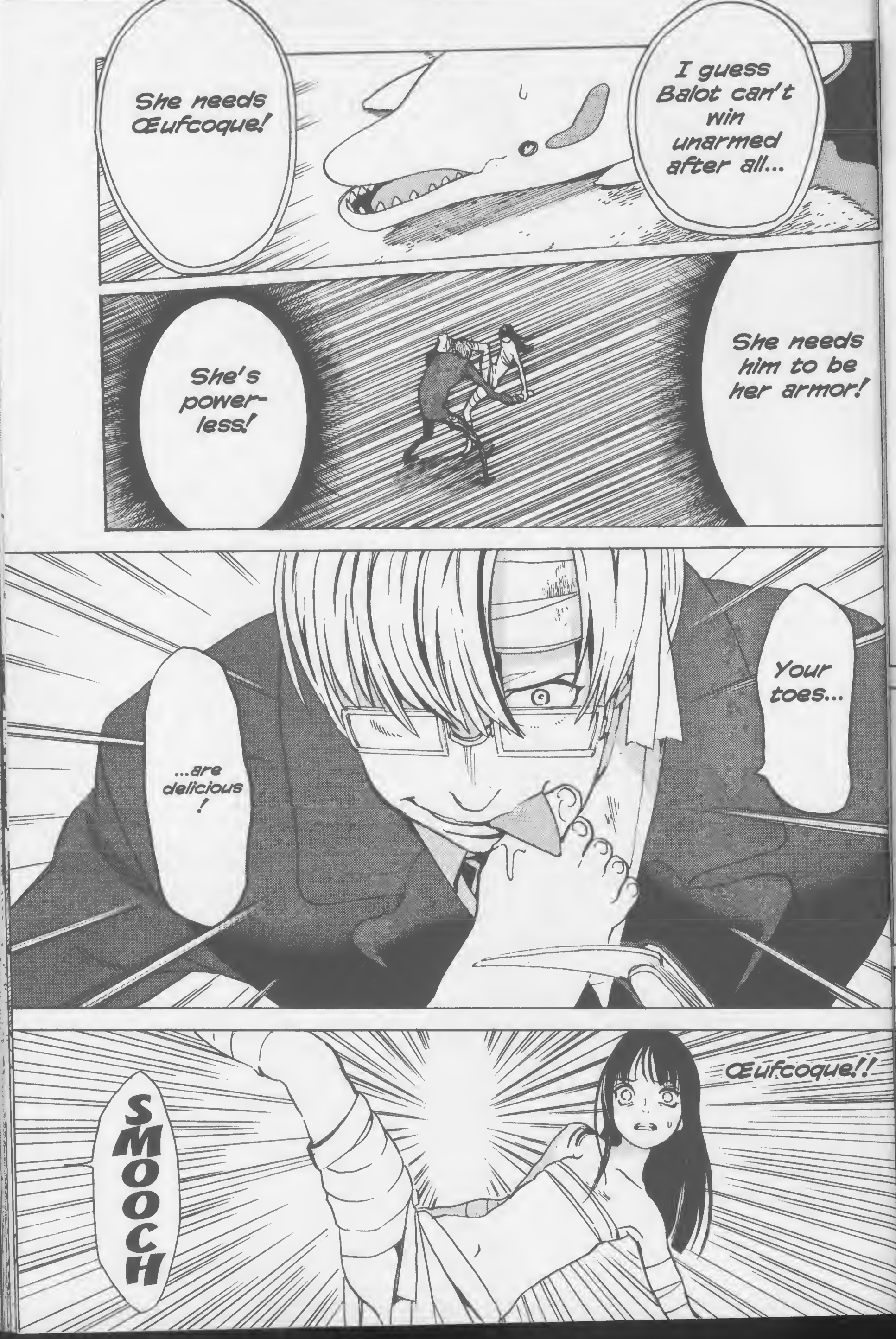

SPLASSSH
ザバ
TURN
ギュ
Ooh! The kitten's come to see me!
Is this fate?!
That's the man who came to the hideout...
Why...?!

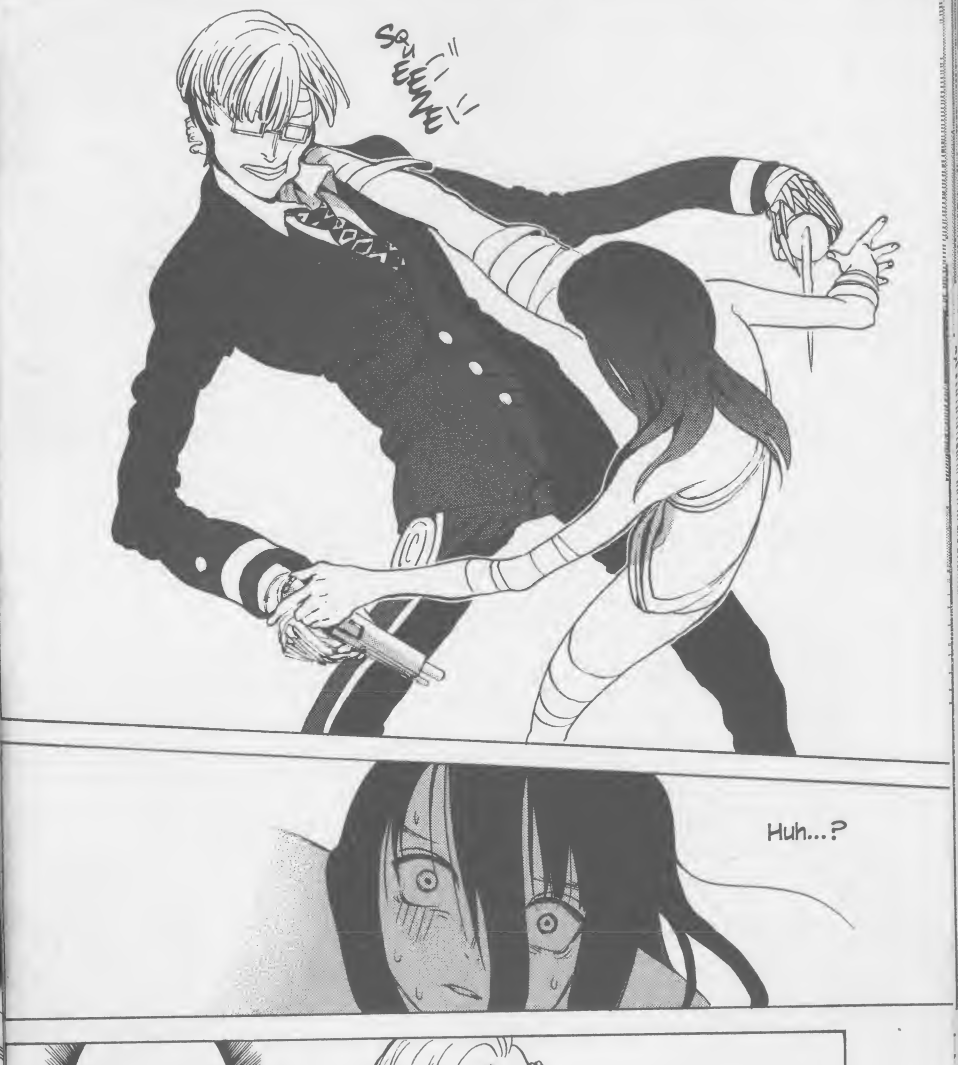

Tweed-ledee!!
Balot, do something!!
Please do something!!

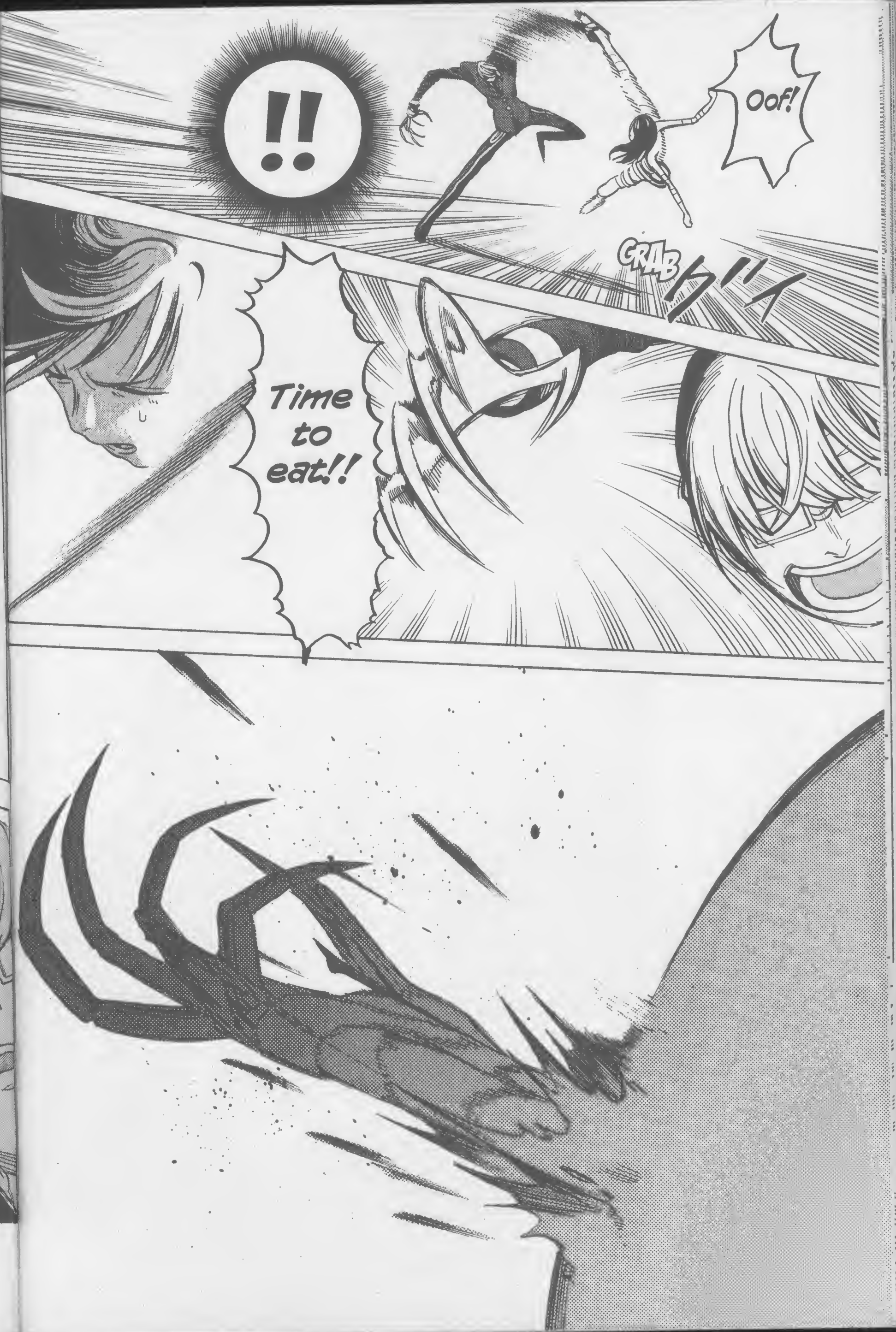

Come on!
FWOOSH
TMP
FSSH
TMP
RAT
RAT
FWOOSH

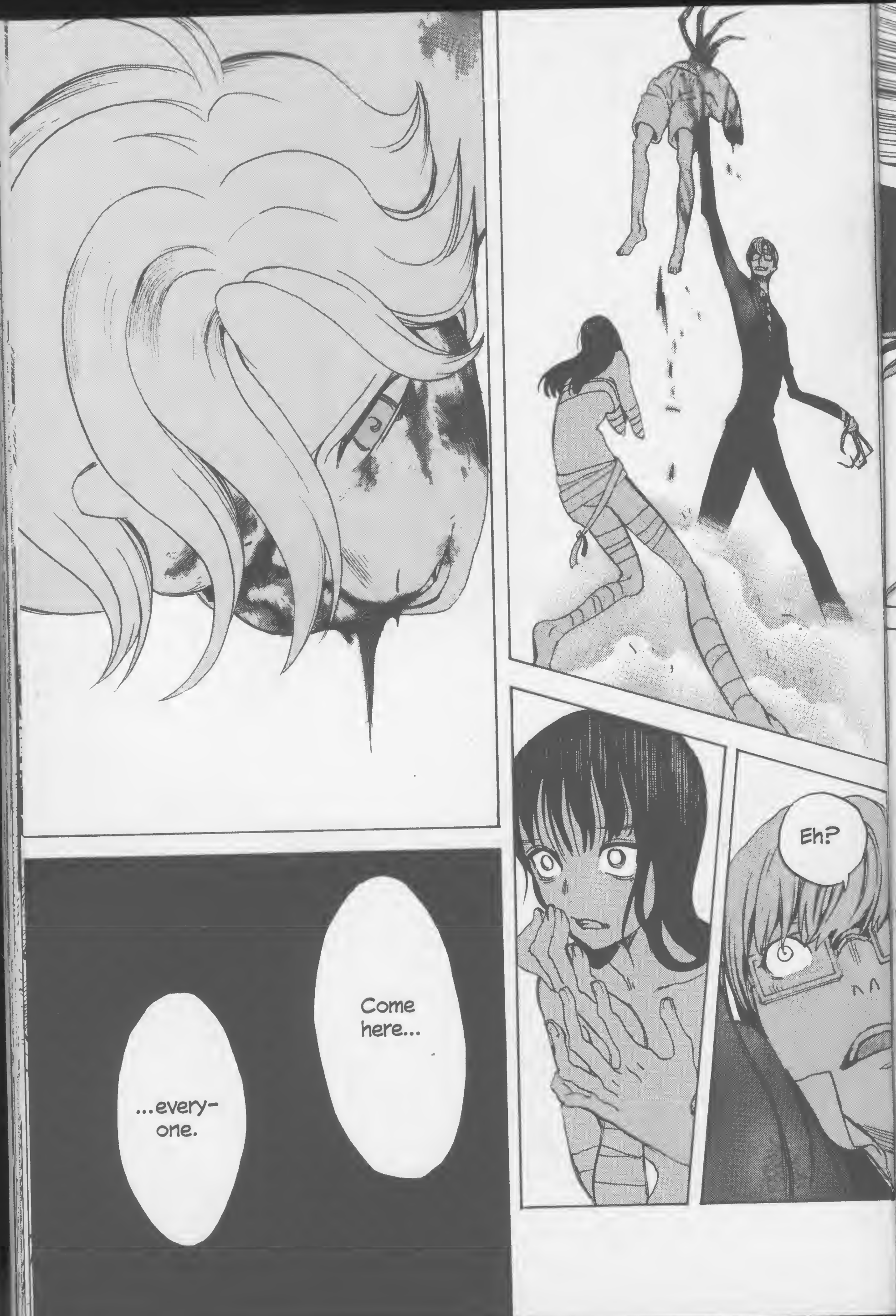

カッ
CLINK
Agghh!
バ
GRAB
ブ
SWISH
ヒュ
SWISH
UGHH!
カーン
CLINK
UNNGGHH!

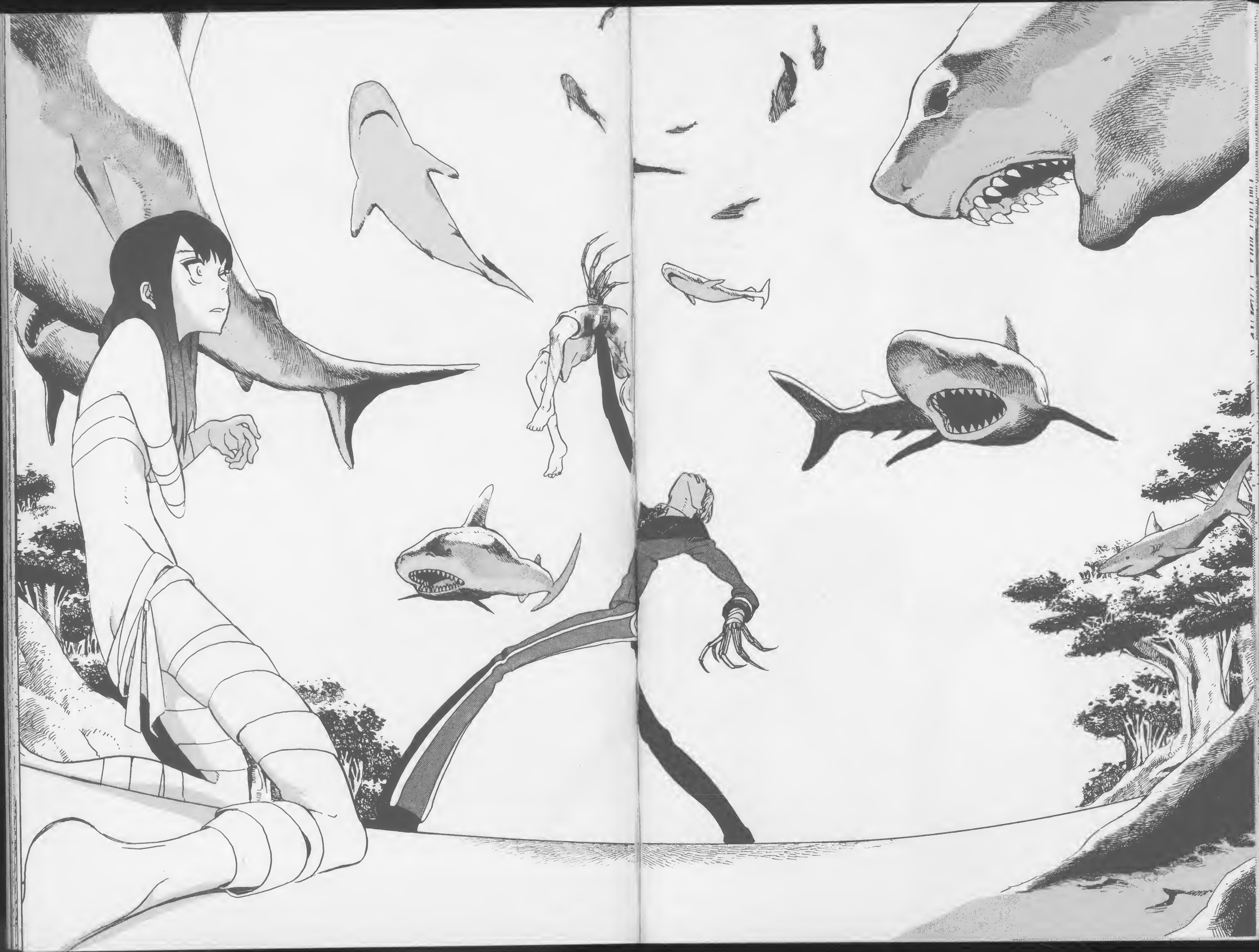

ブオン
SWISH
OOOF!
ブオン
SWISH
OOOF!
ヒュ
SWISH
ヒュ
SWISH
ヒュ
SWISH
Whoa!
She doesn't even have any weapons...
But she's going to win!!
ガッ
GRAB


I guess Balot can't win unarmed after all...
She needs Œufcoque!
She needs him to be her armor!
She's powerless!
Your toes...
...are delicious!
Œufcoque!!
SMOOCH

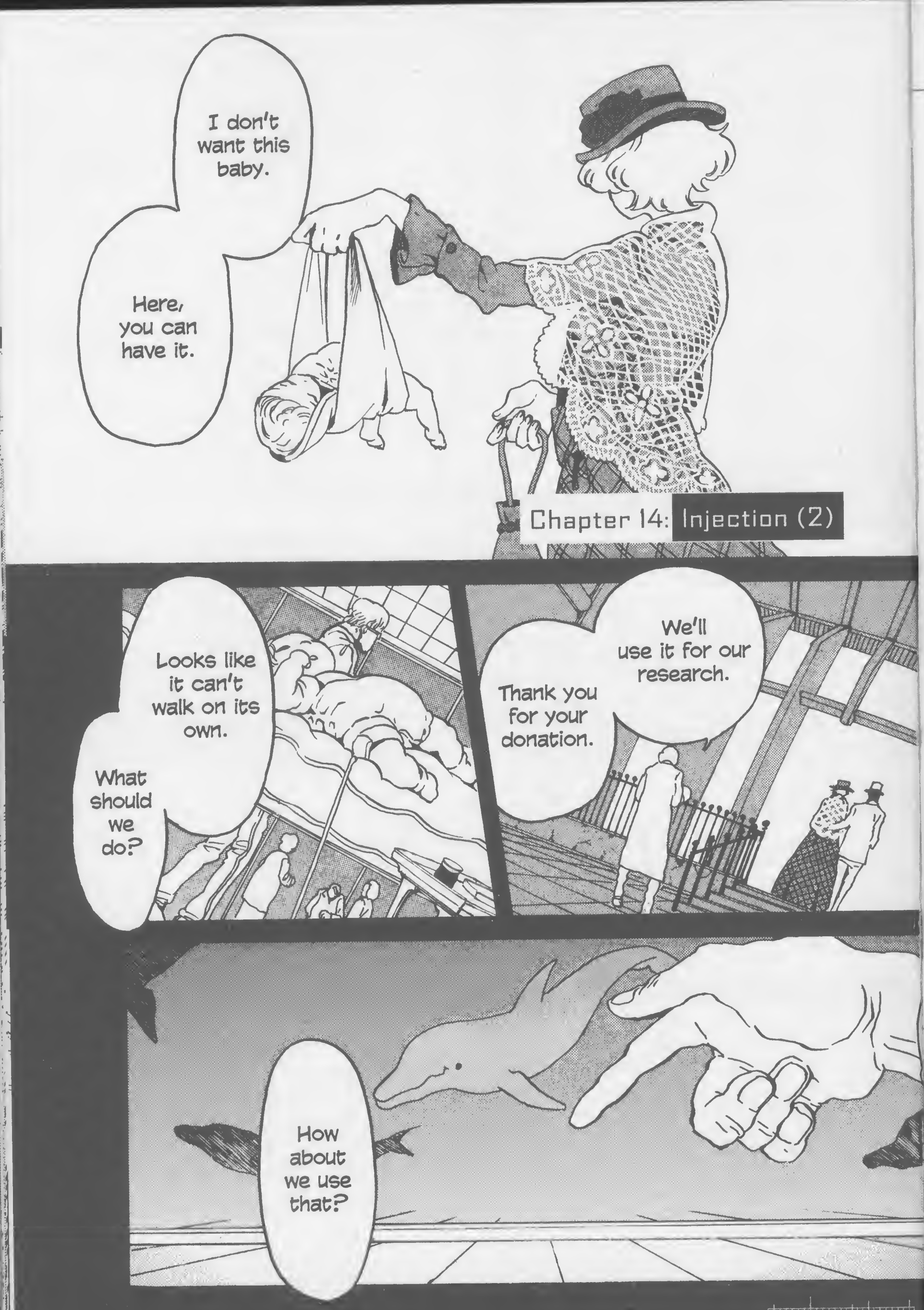

SQUEEEZE
Huh...?
It's not working?!
GRAB


Oof!
!!
GRAB グイ
Time to eat!!

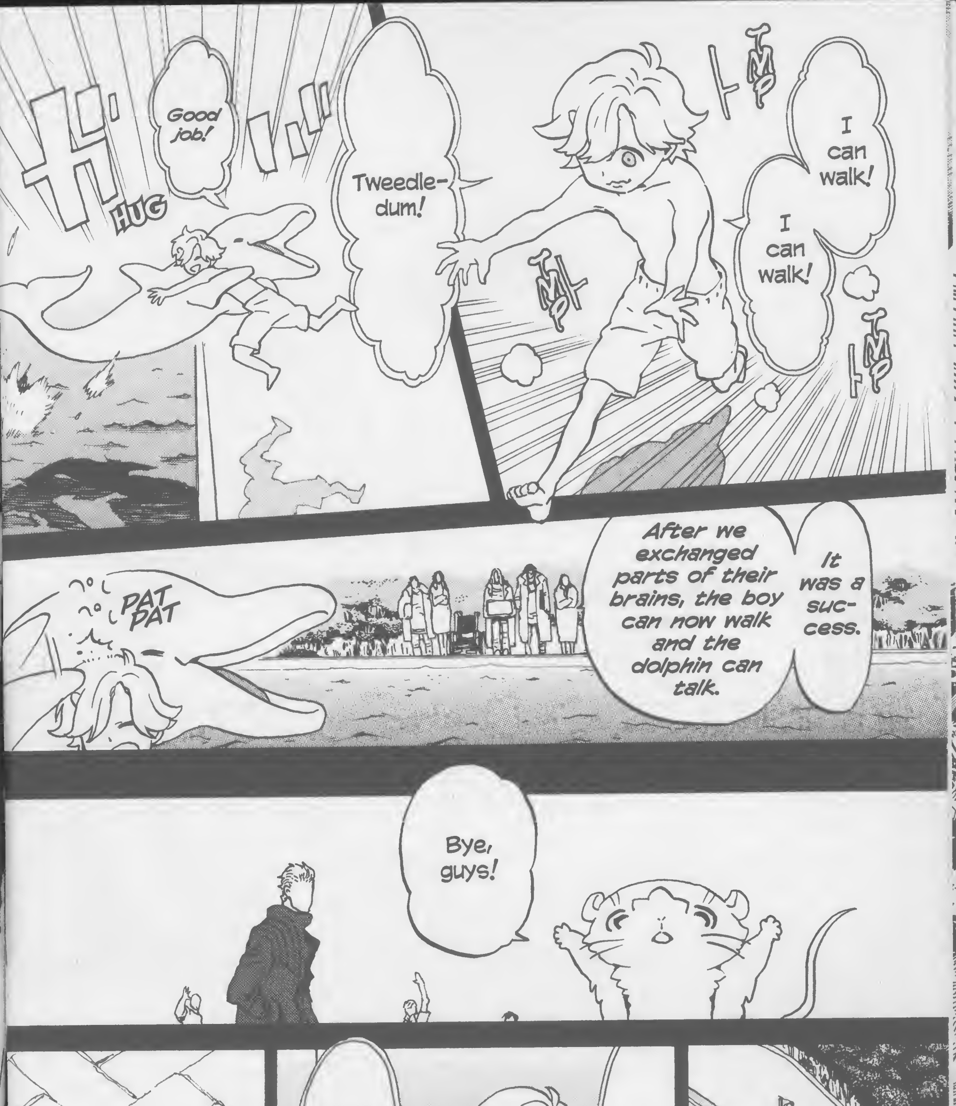

Eh?
Come here...
...every-one.

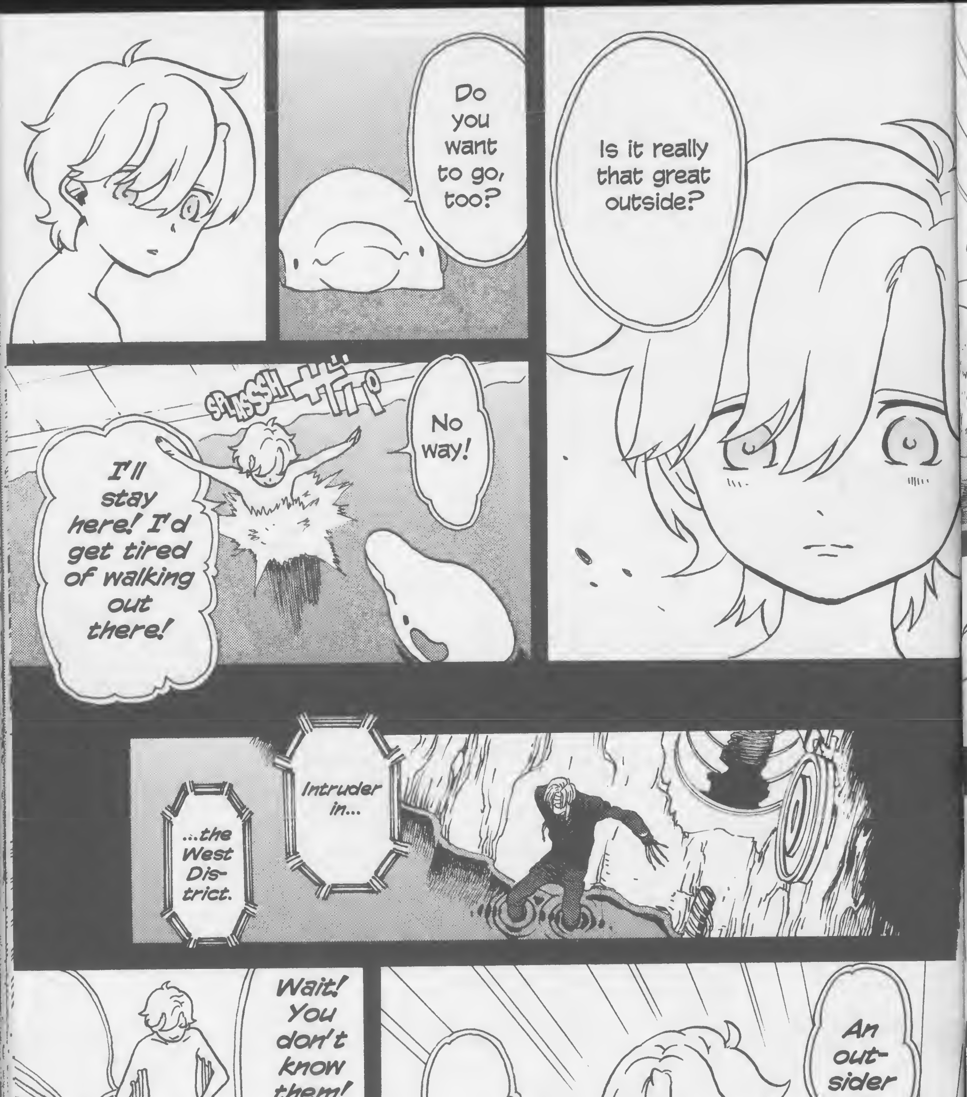


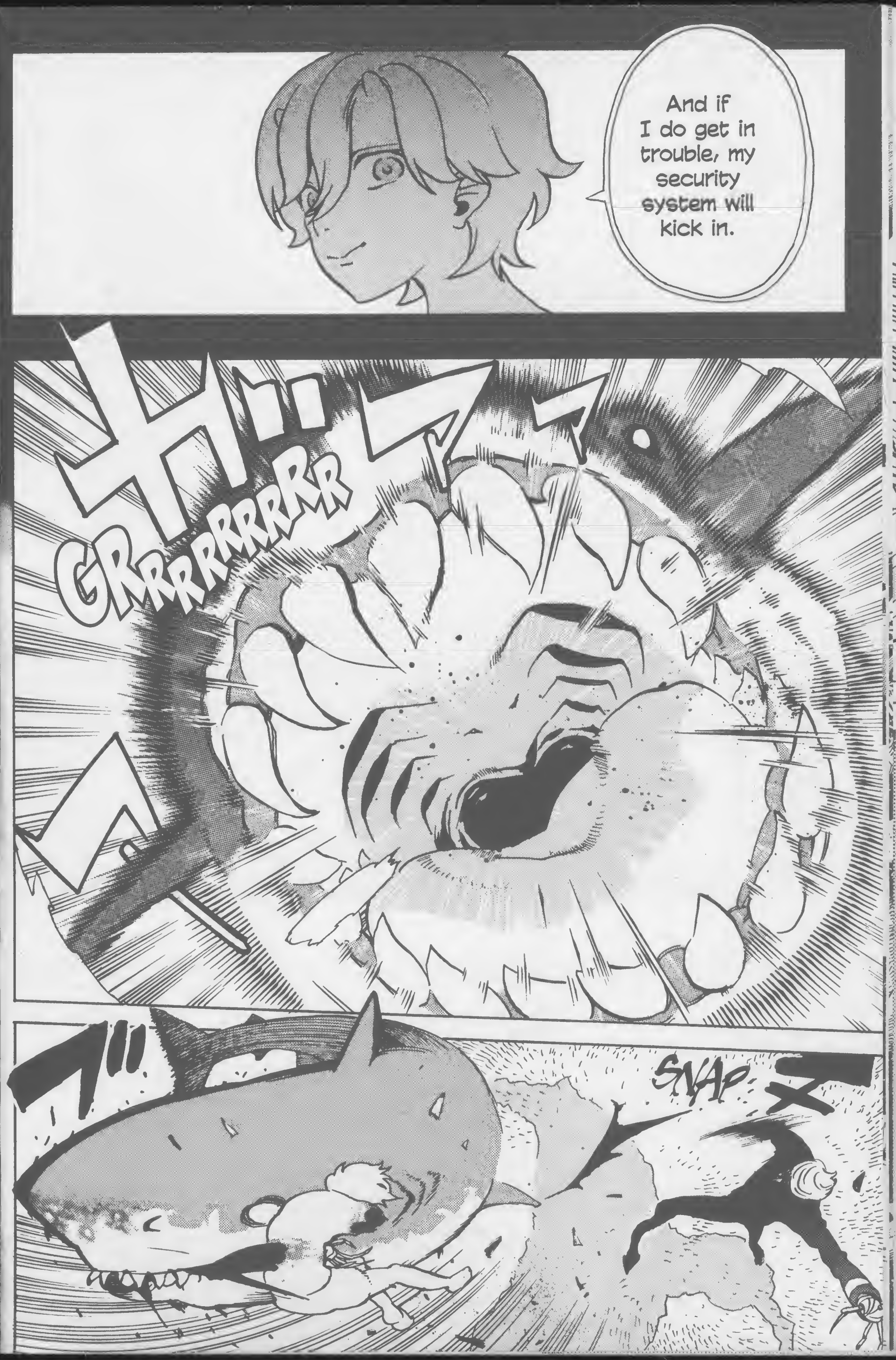
Chapter 14: Injection (2)

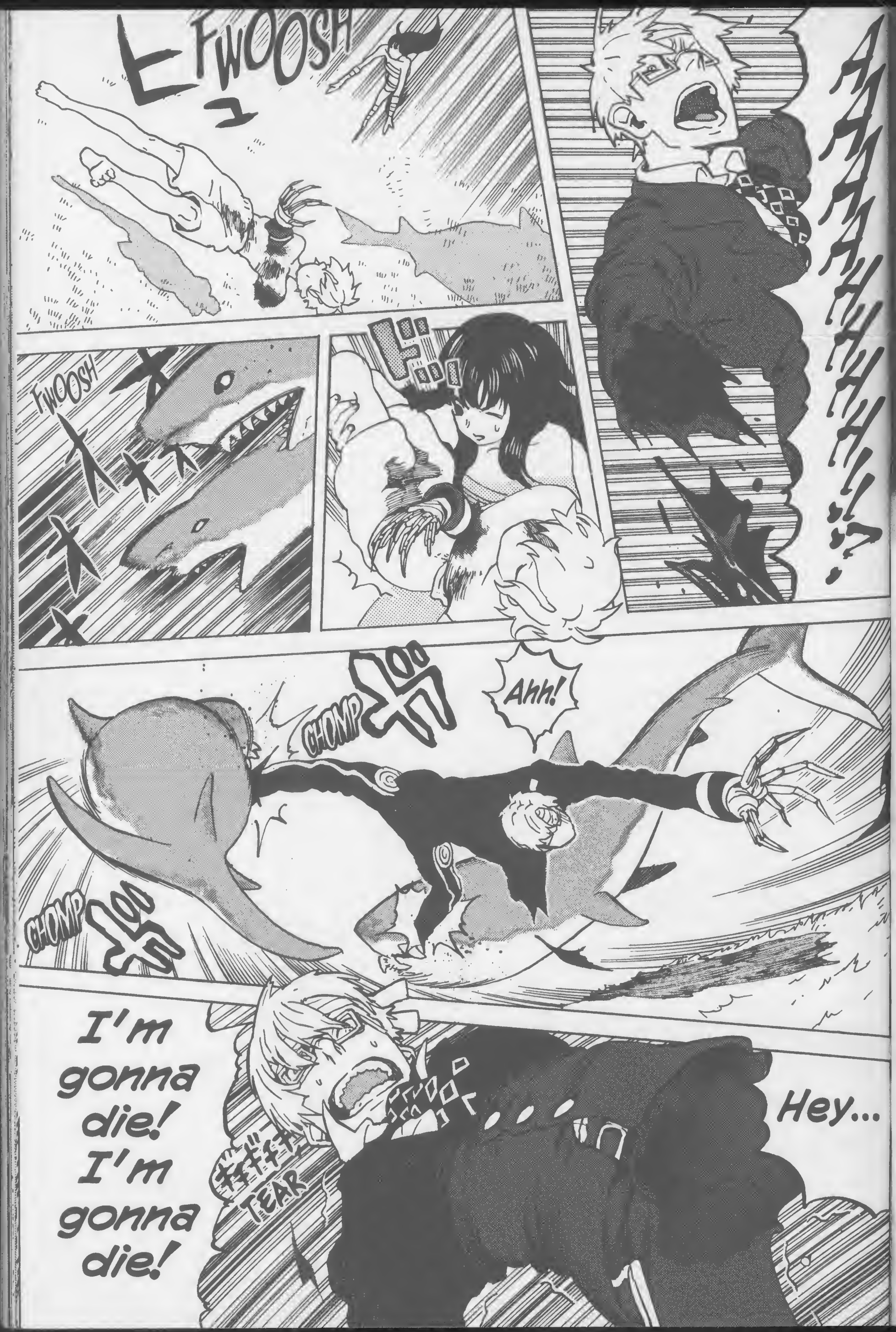

I don't want this baby.
Here, you can have it.
We'll use it for our research.
Thank you for your donation.
Looks like it can't walk on its own.
What should we do?
How about we use that?

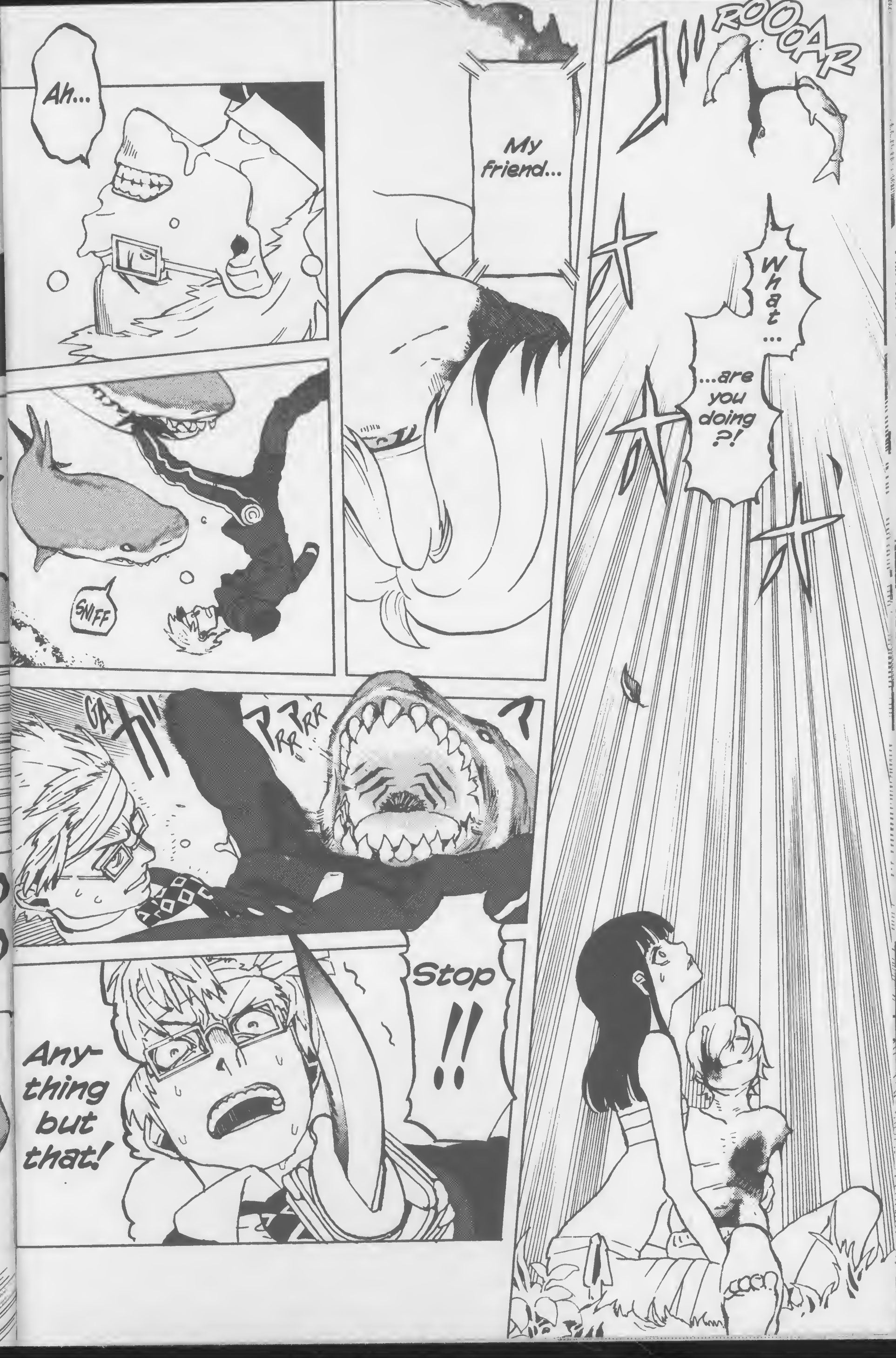
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

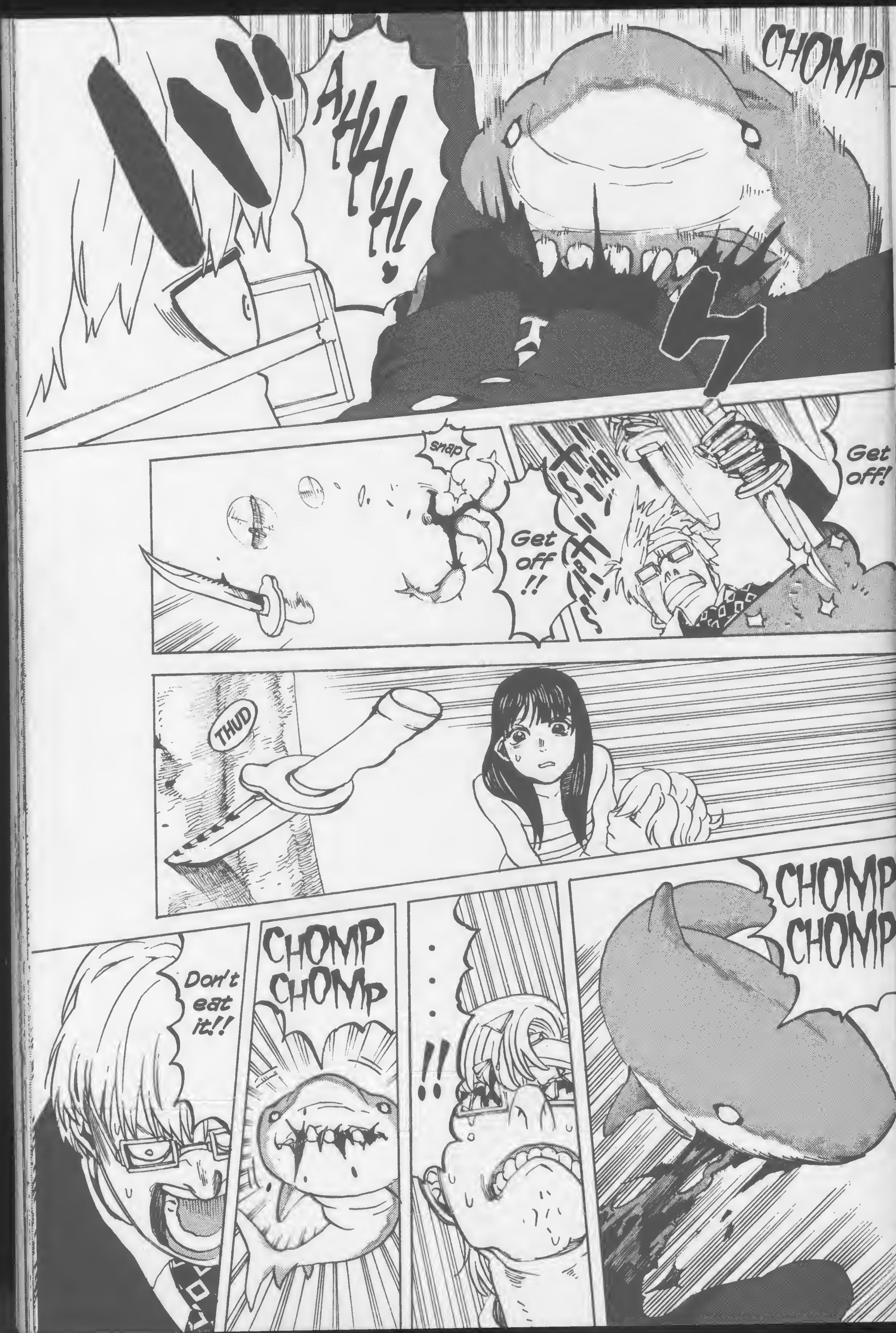

I can walk!
I can walk!
TMP
TMP
TMP
Tweedle-dum!
Good job!
HUG
It was a success.
After we exchanged parts of their brains, the boy can now walk and the dolphin can talk.
PAT PAT
Bye, guys!
Everyone went outside.
Doctor, Œufcoque...
Boiled.

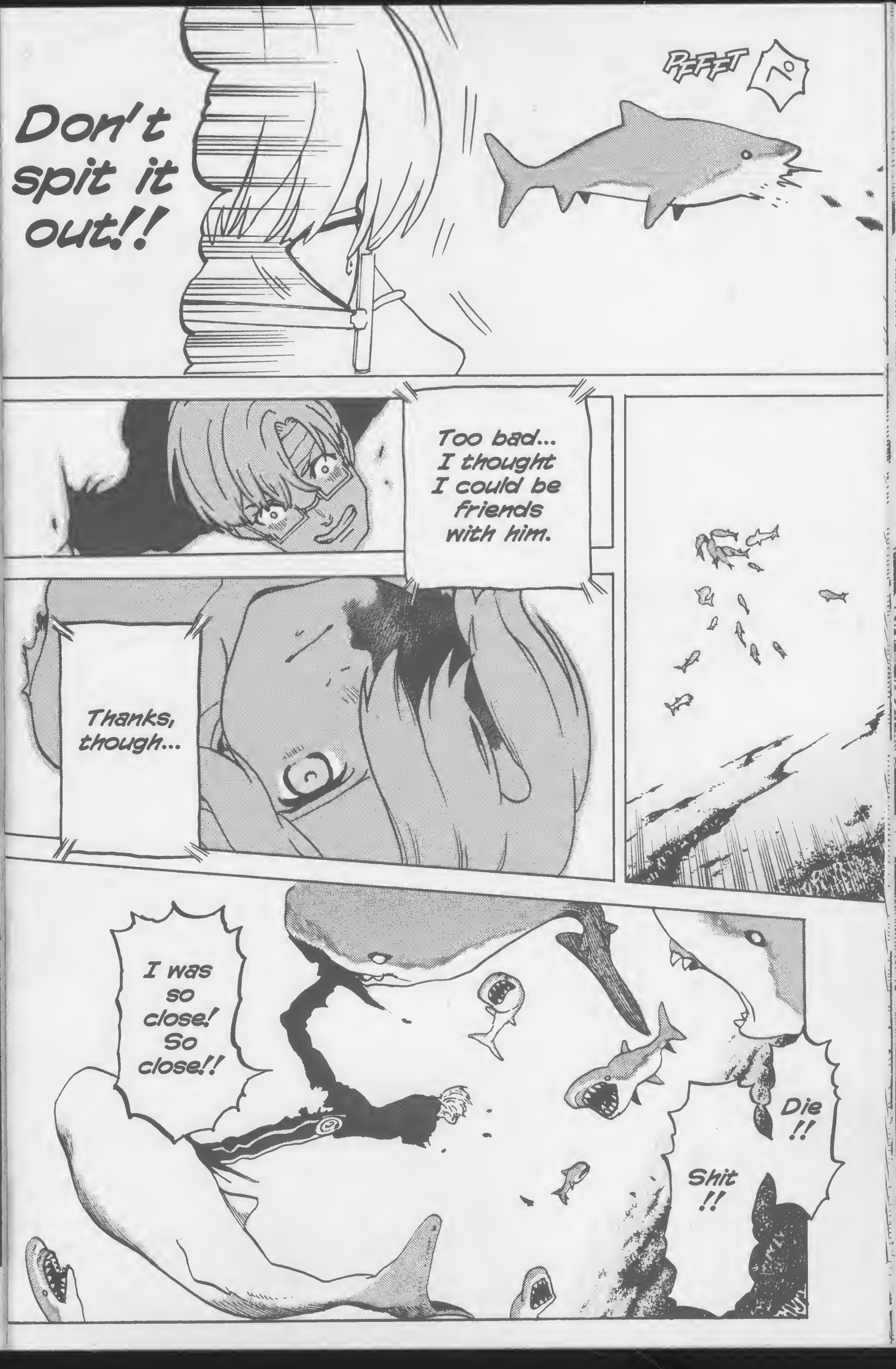

Is it really that great outside?
Do you want to go, too?
No way!
I'll stay here! I'd get tired of walking out there!
SPLASSH
Intruder in...
...the West District.
An outsider?
I want to talk to him!
Wait! You don't know them! It's dangerous!
I'm fine!

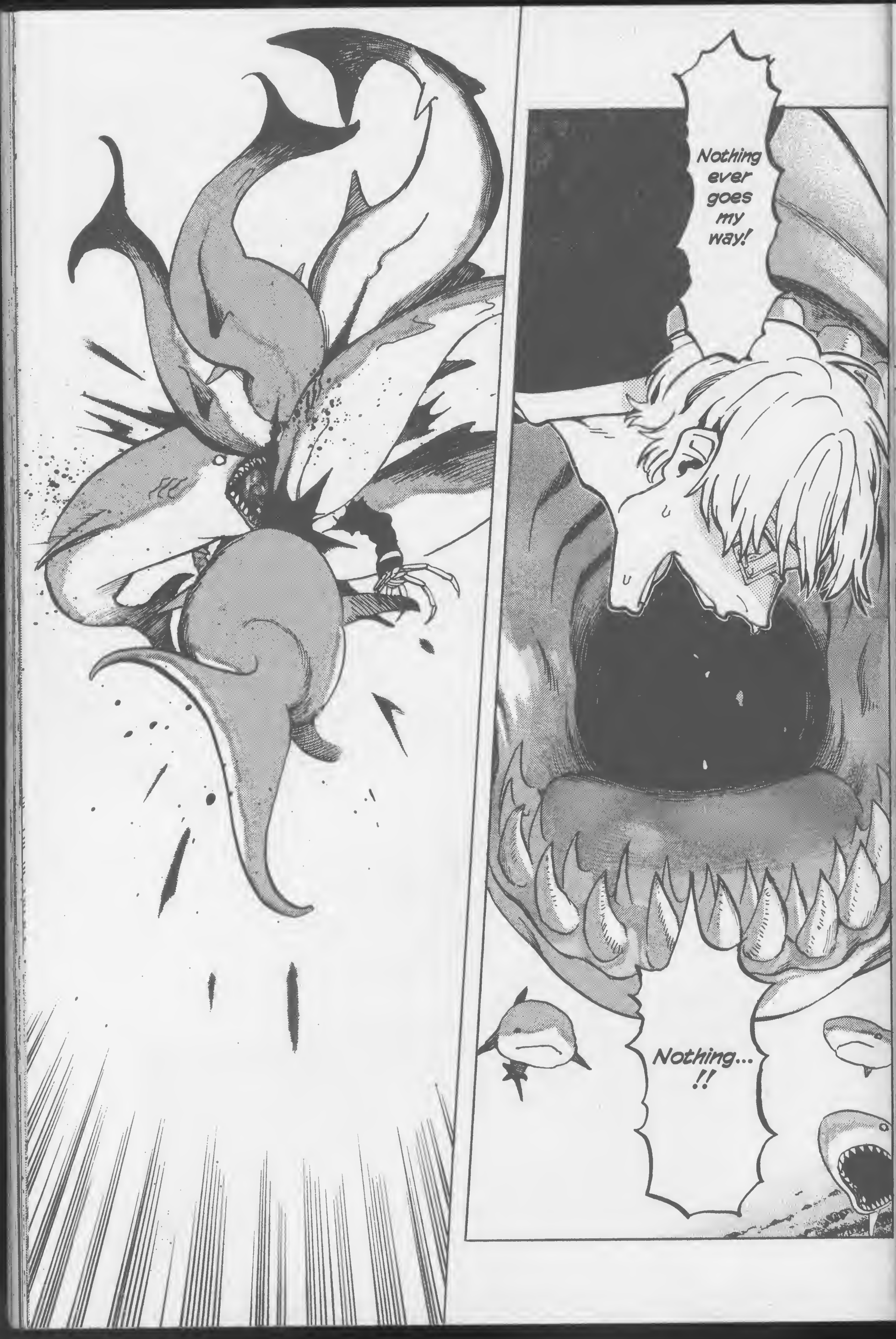

And if I do get in trouble, my security system will kick in.
GRRRRRRRR
SNAP

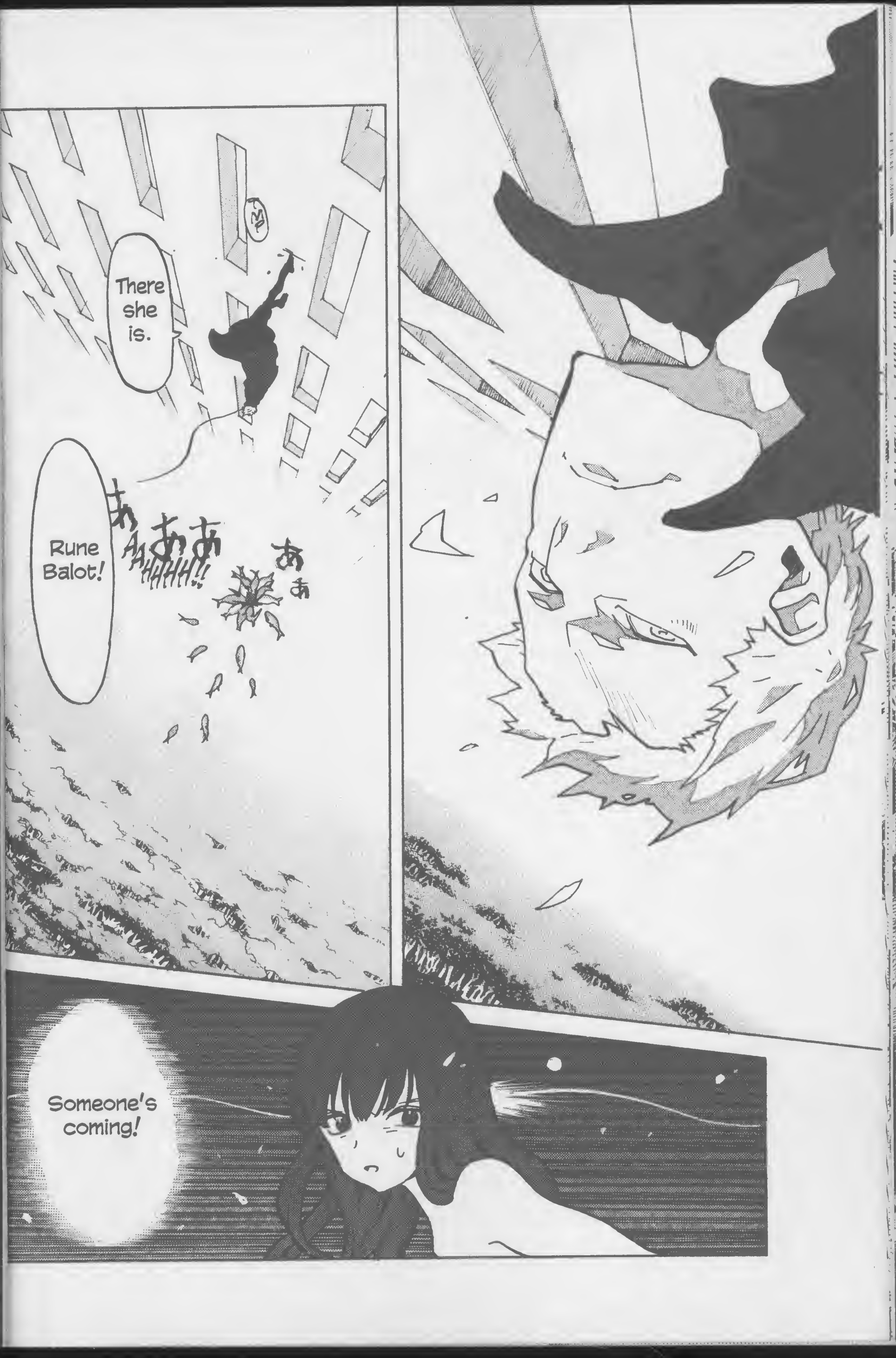

FWOOSH
AAAAAAHHHHH!!?
FWOOSH
Ahh!
CHOMP
CHOMP
Hey...
I'm gonna die! I'm gonna die!
TEAR

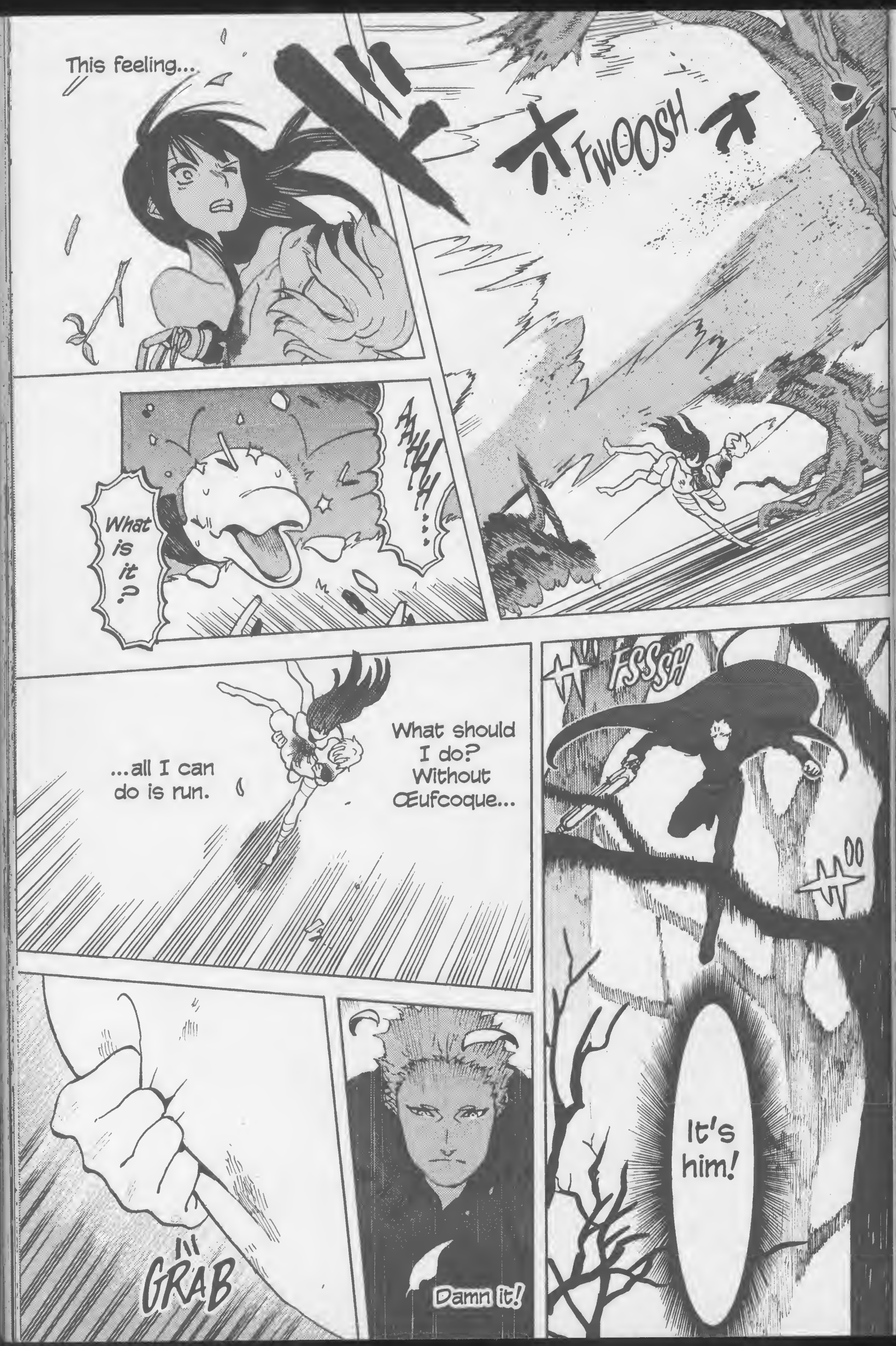

ROOOAR
What...
...are you doing?!
My friend...
Ah...
SNIFF
GA
PRRRR
Stop!!
Anything but that!

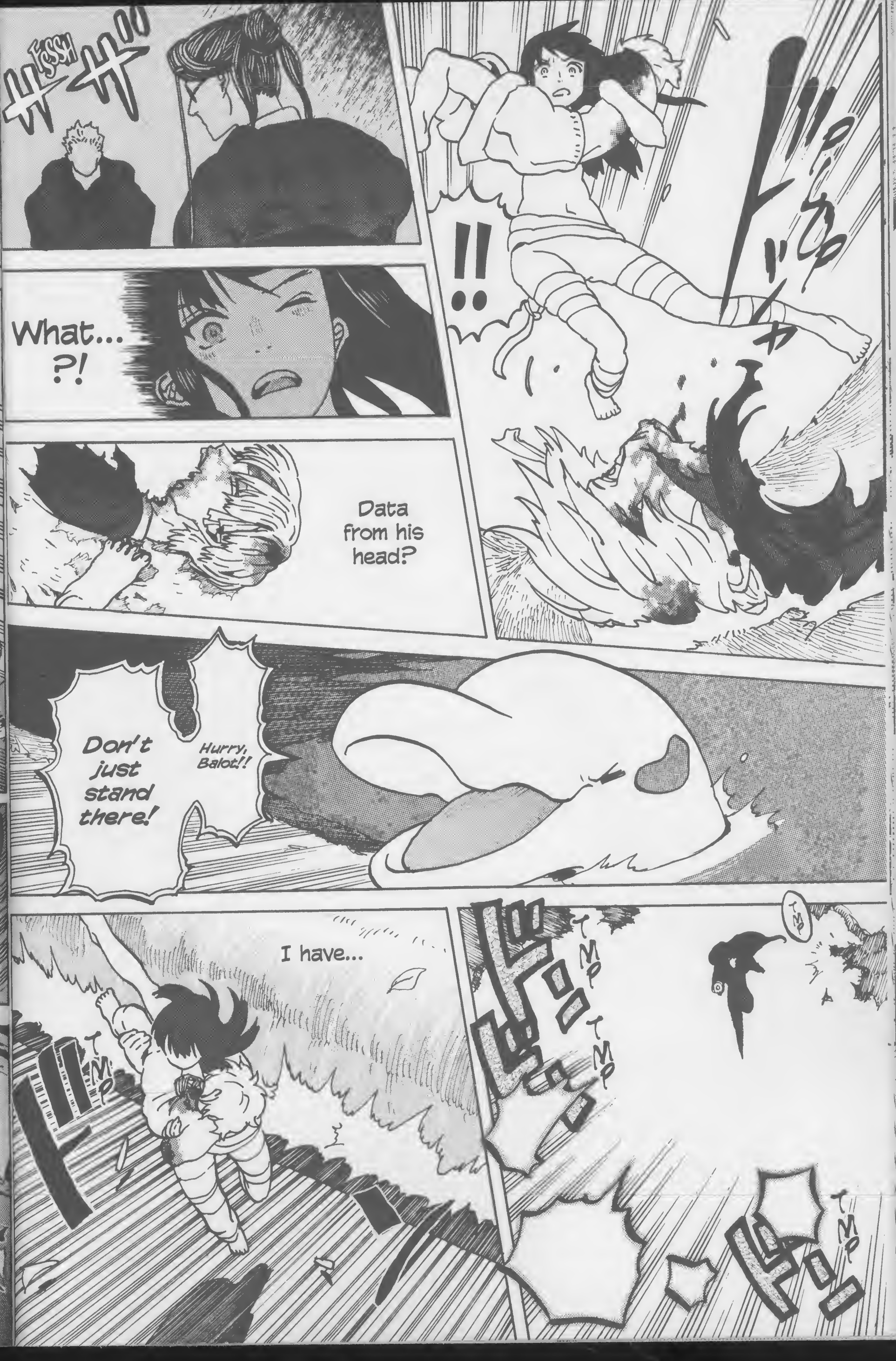

CHOMP
AHHHH!!
Get off!
Get off!!
snap
THUD
CHOMP CHOMP
!!
...
CHOMP CHOMP
Don't eat it!!

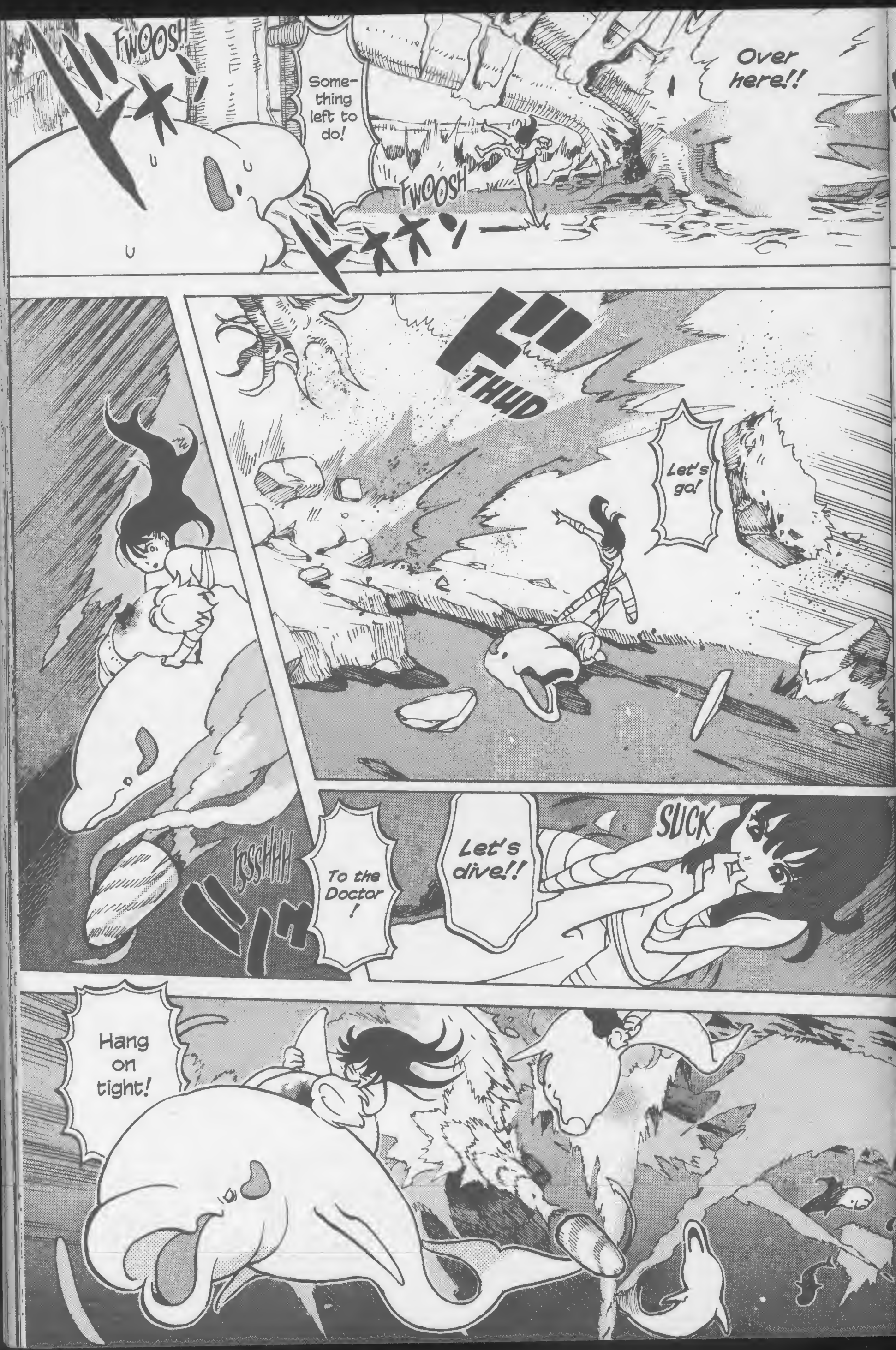

PEFFT
Don't spit it out!!
Too bad... I thought I could be friends with him.
Thanks, though...
Die!!
Shit!!
I was so close! So close!!

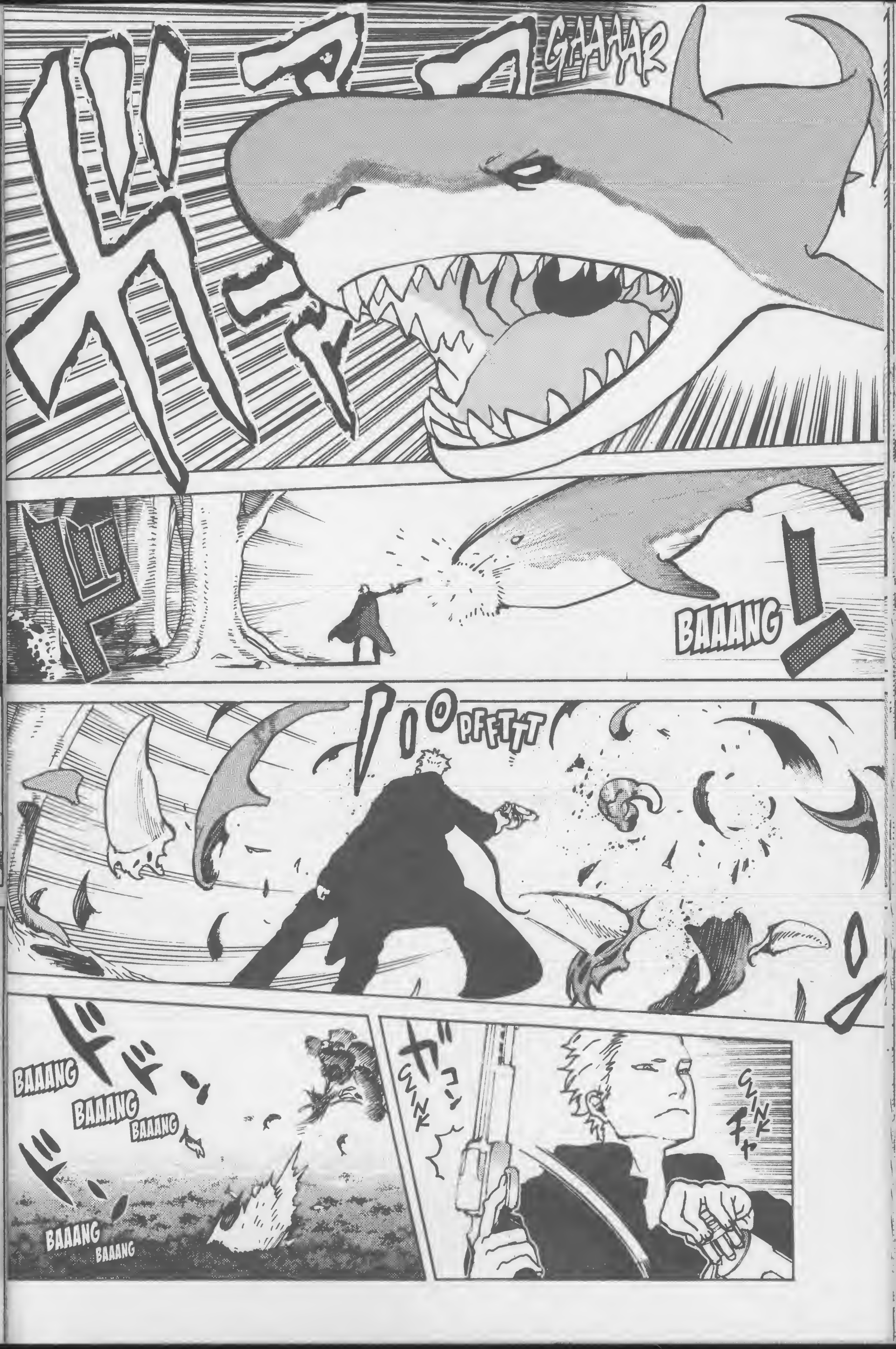

Nothing ever goes my way!
Nothing... !!

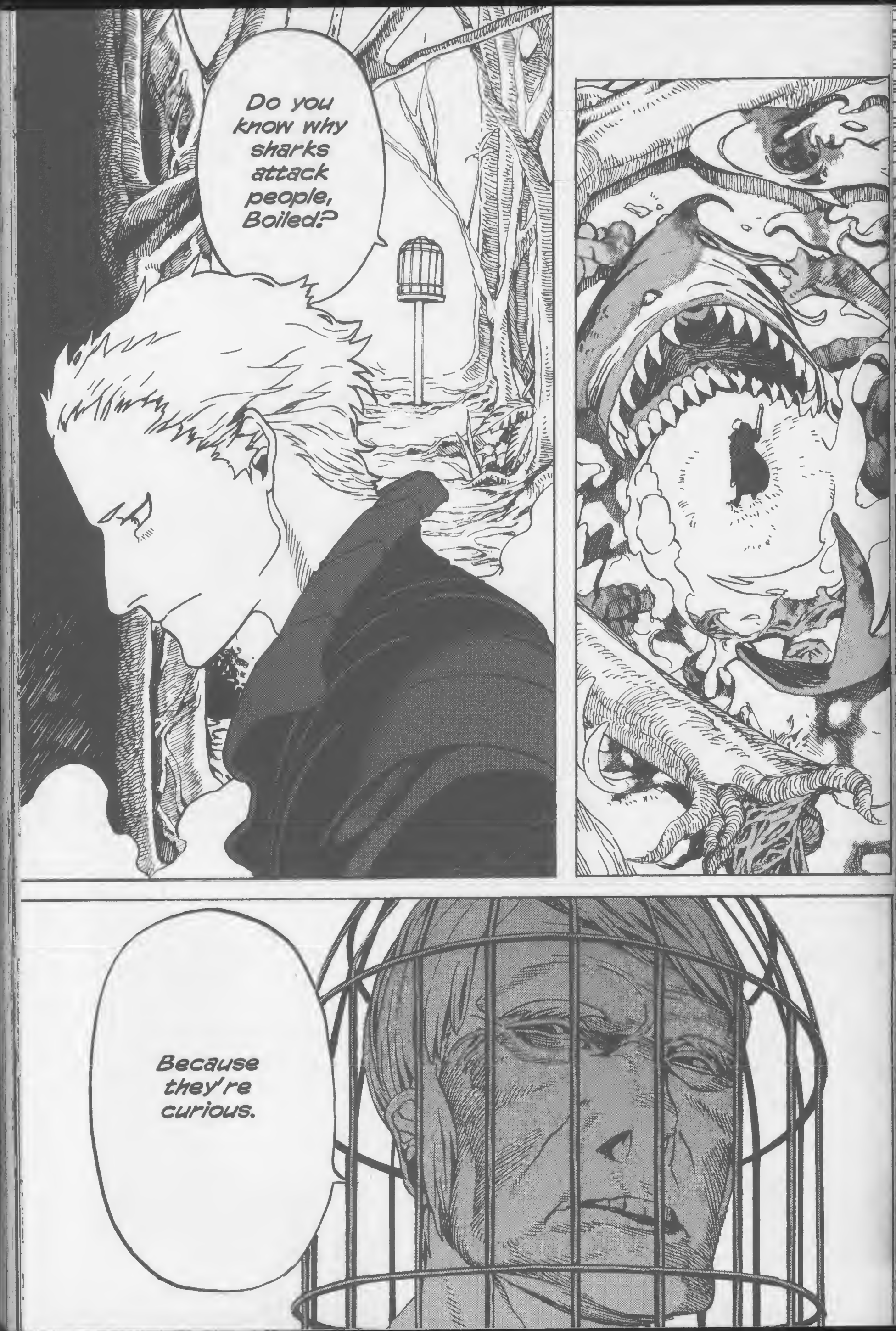

There she is.
Rune Balot!
ああ
AAAHHHH!!
ああ
あ
あ
Someone's coming!

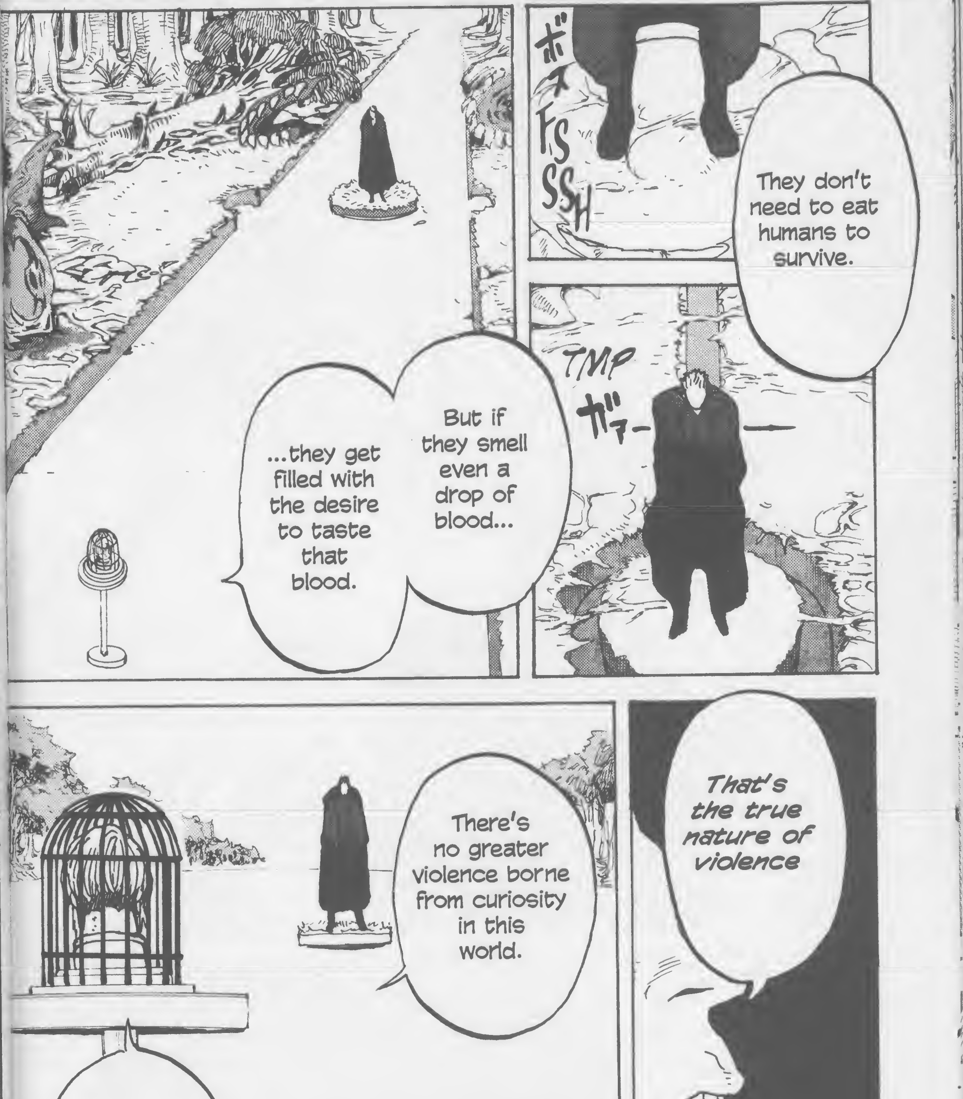

FWOOSH
This feeling...
AAHHH...
What is it?
FSSSH
What should I do? Without Œufcoque...
...all I can do is run.
It's him!
Damn it!
GRAB

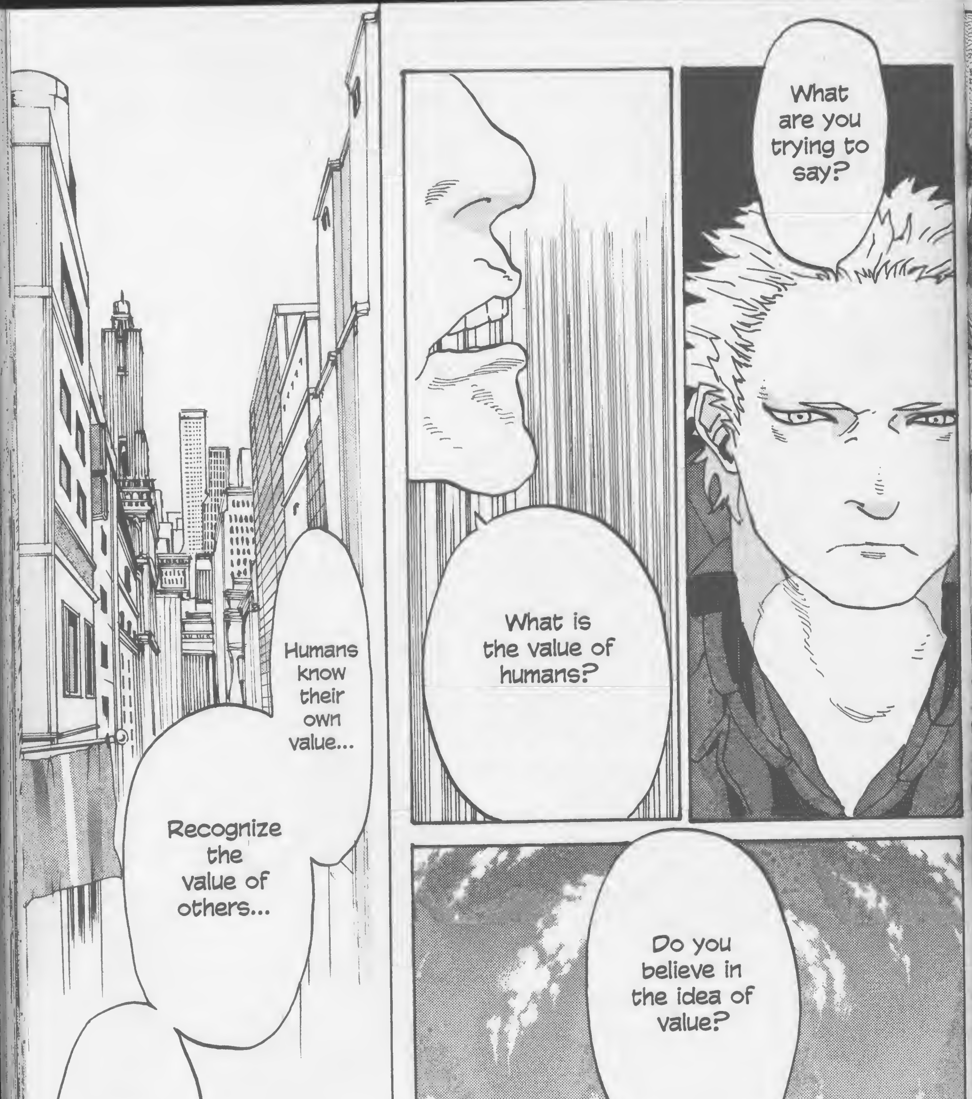

!!
TSSH
What...?!
Data from his head?
Hurry, Balot!!
Don't just stand there!
TMP
TMP TMP
TMP
I have...
TMP

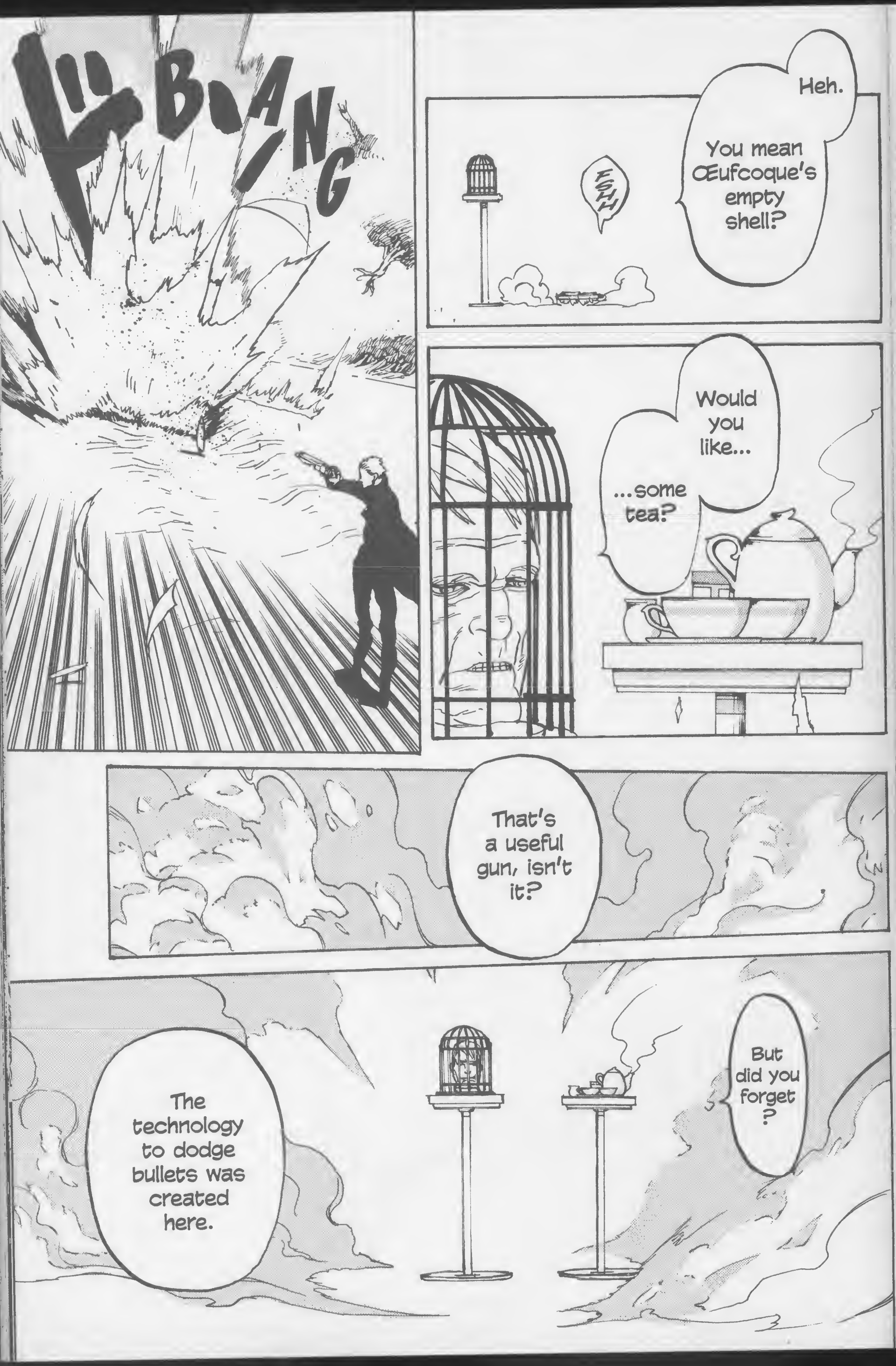

Over here!!
Something left to do!
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
THUD
Let's go!
SUCK
Let's dive!!
To the Doctor!
TSSHHH
Hang on tight!

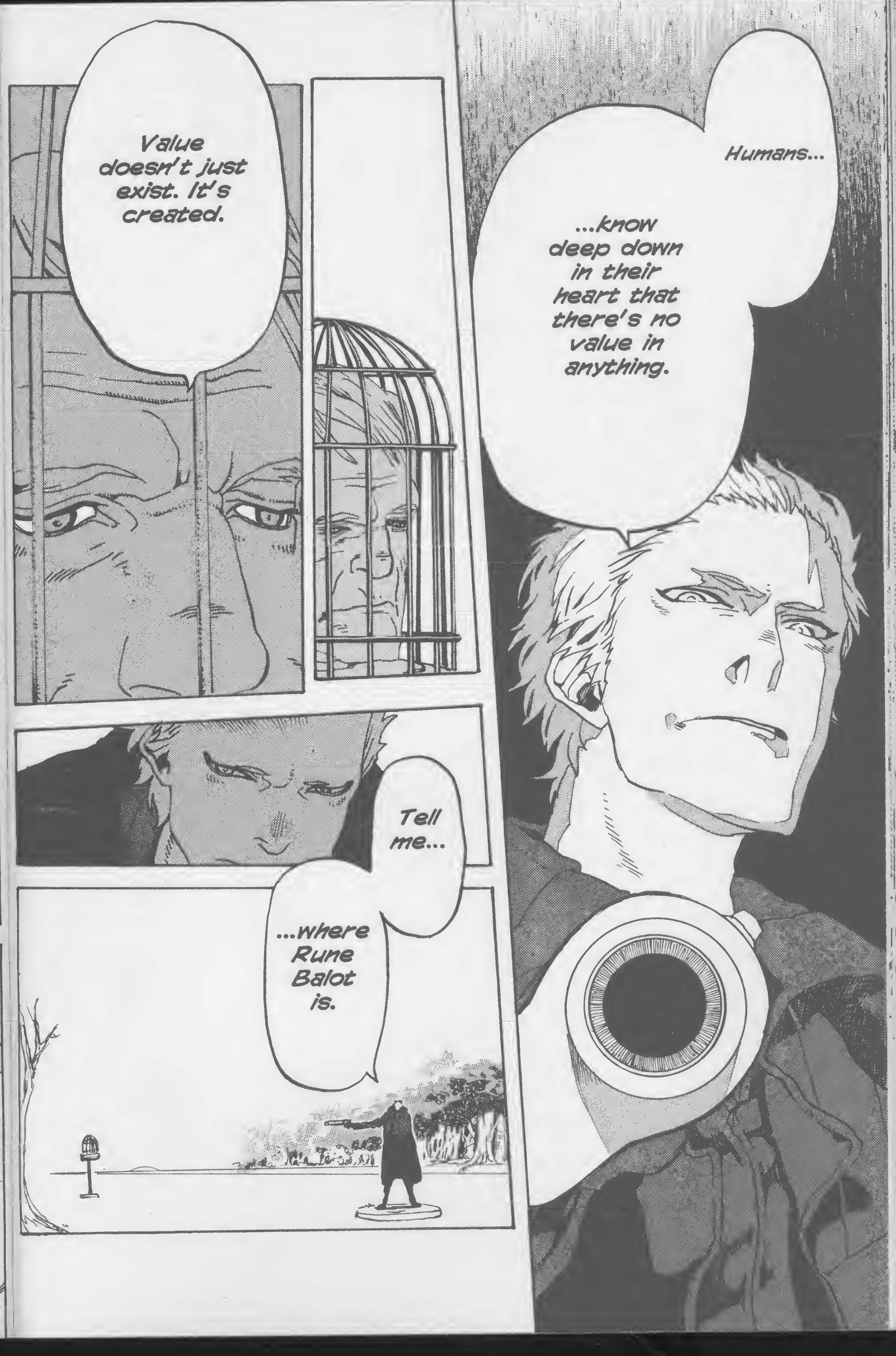

GAAAAR
BAAANG
PFFTTT
BAAANG
BAAANG
BAAANG
BAAANG
BAAANG
ドドッ
ガコン
CLINK
チャ
CLINK

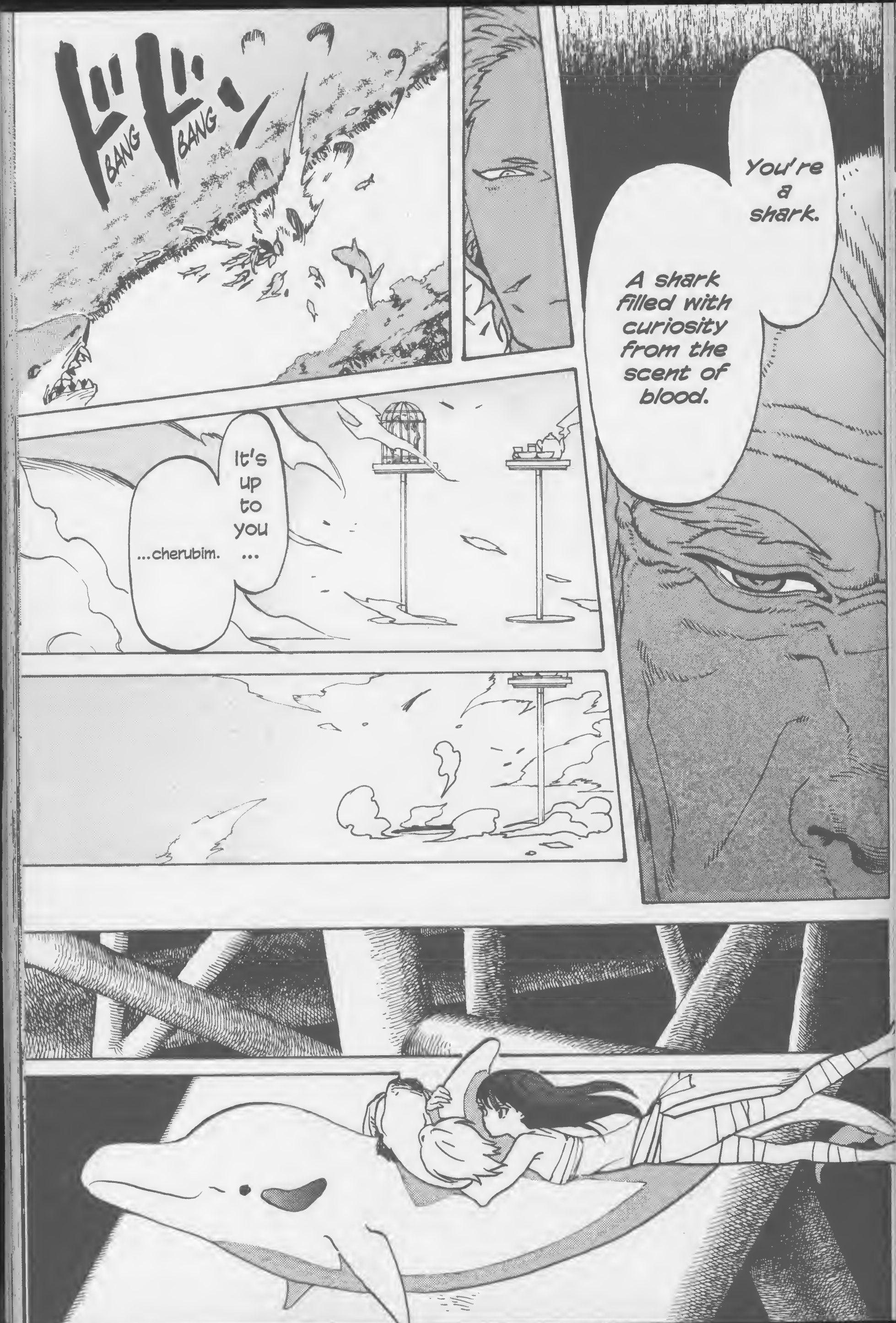

Do you know why sharks attack people, Boiled?
Because they're curious.

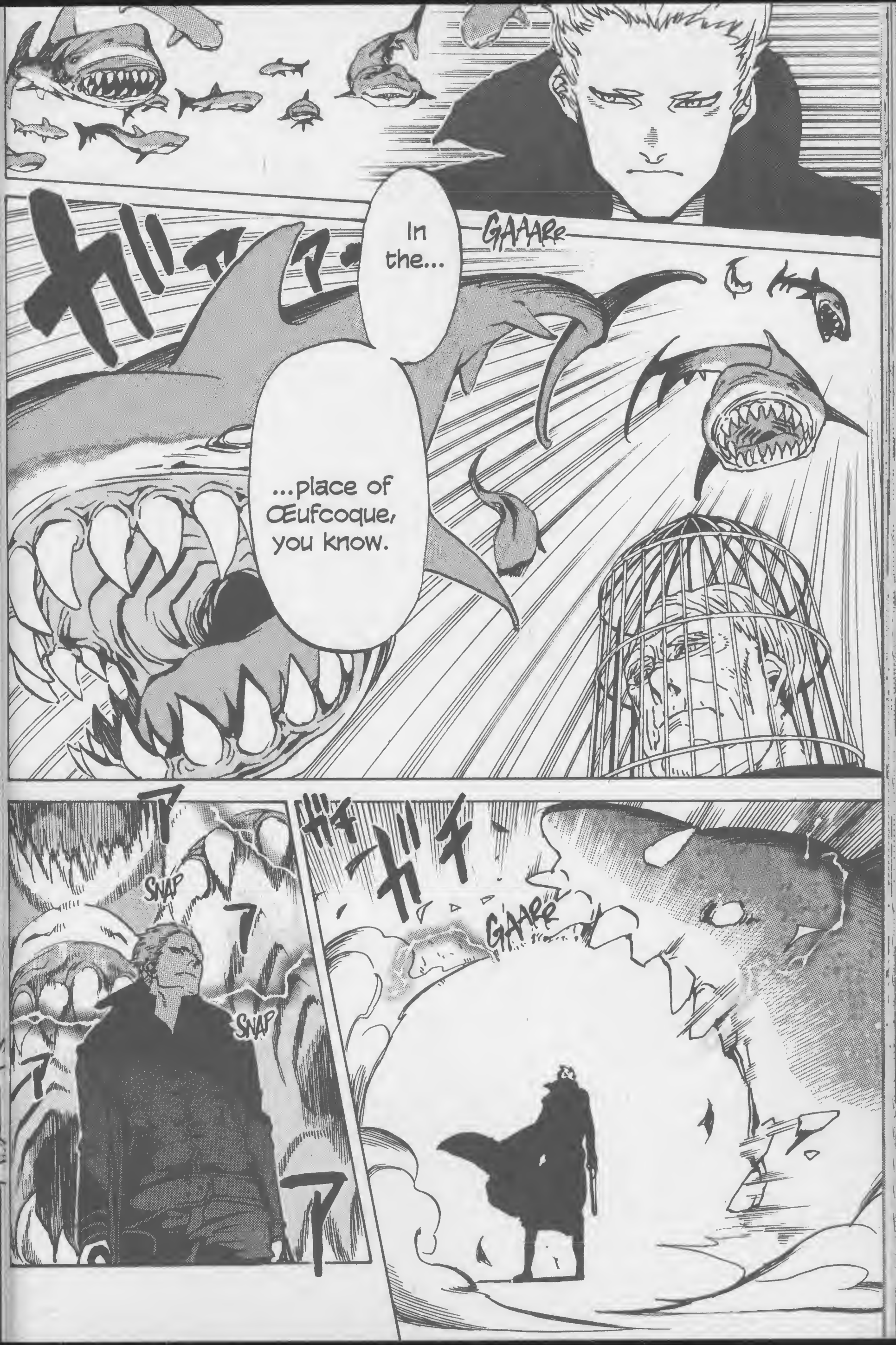

ボフ
FSSSH
They don't need to eat humans to survive.
TMP
ガァー
But if they smell even a drop of blood...
...they get filled with the desire to taste that blood.
That's the true nature of violence
There's no greater violence borne from curiosity in this world.
Only those who can resist that desire should be called humans.

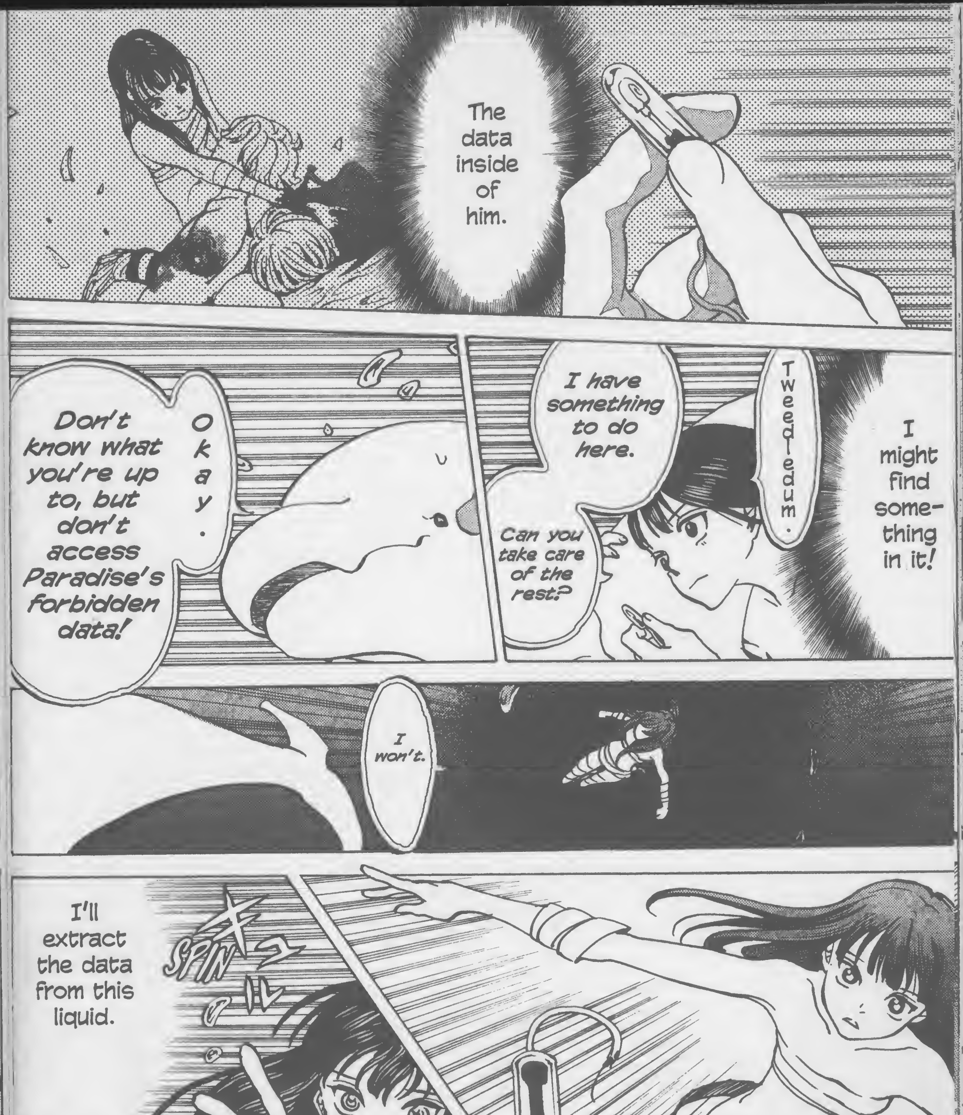

What are you trying to say?
What is the value of humans?
Do you believe in the idea of value?
Humans know their own value...
Recognize the value of others...
...and participate in society.

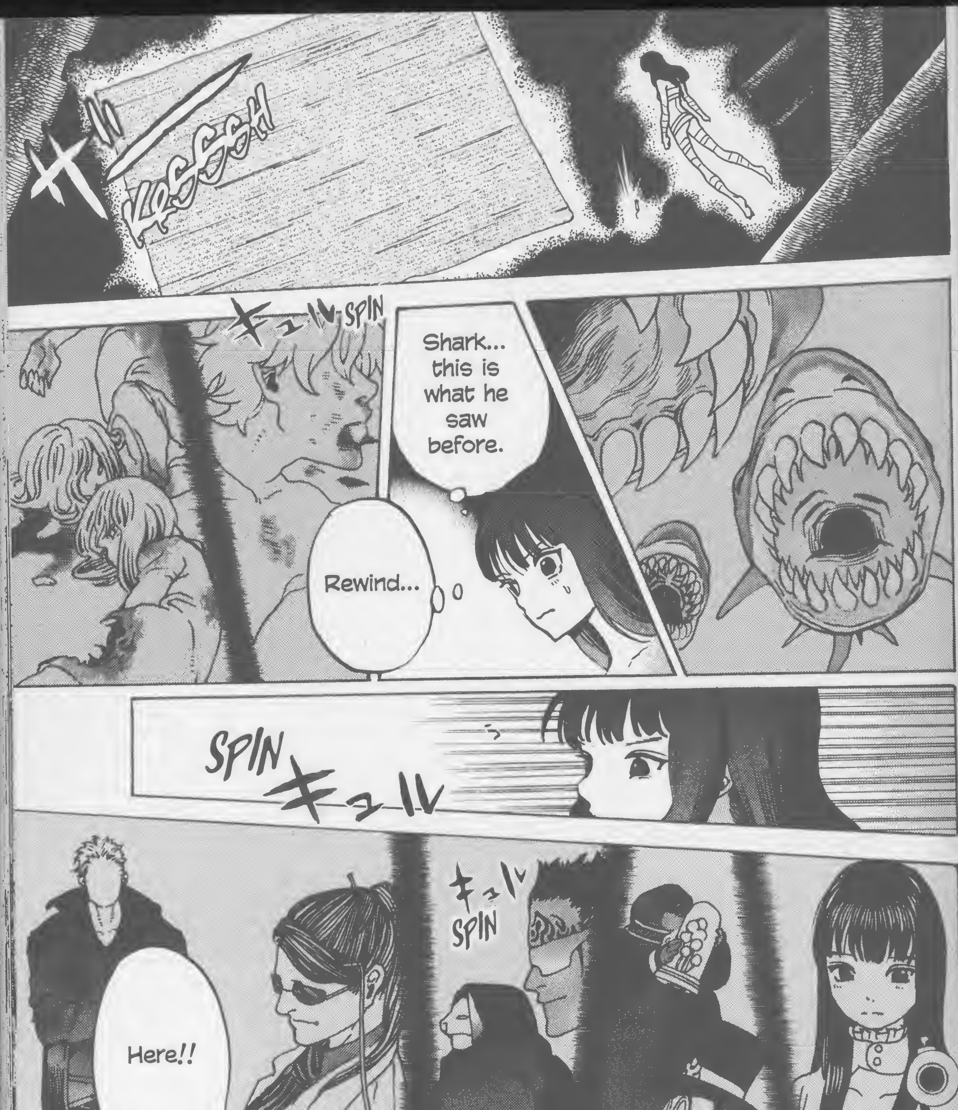

BANG
Heh.
You mean Œufcoque's empty shell?
FSH
Would you like...
...some tea?
That's a useful gun, isn't it?
The technology to dodge bullets was created here.
But did you forget?

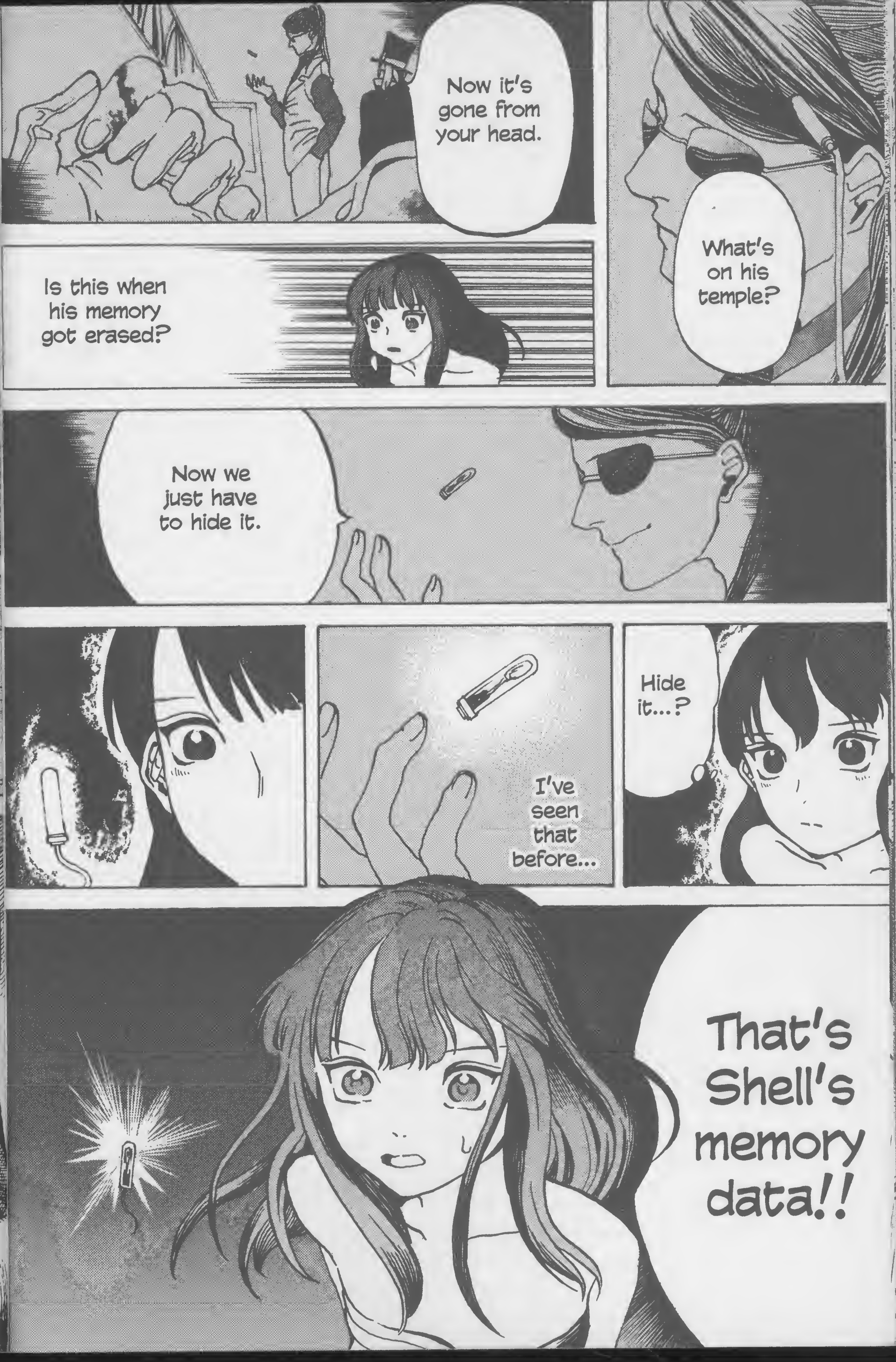

Value doesn't just exist. It's created.
Humans...
...know deep down in their heart that there's no value in anything.
Tell me...
...where Rune Balot is.

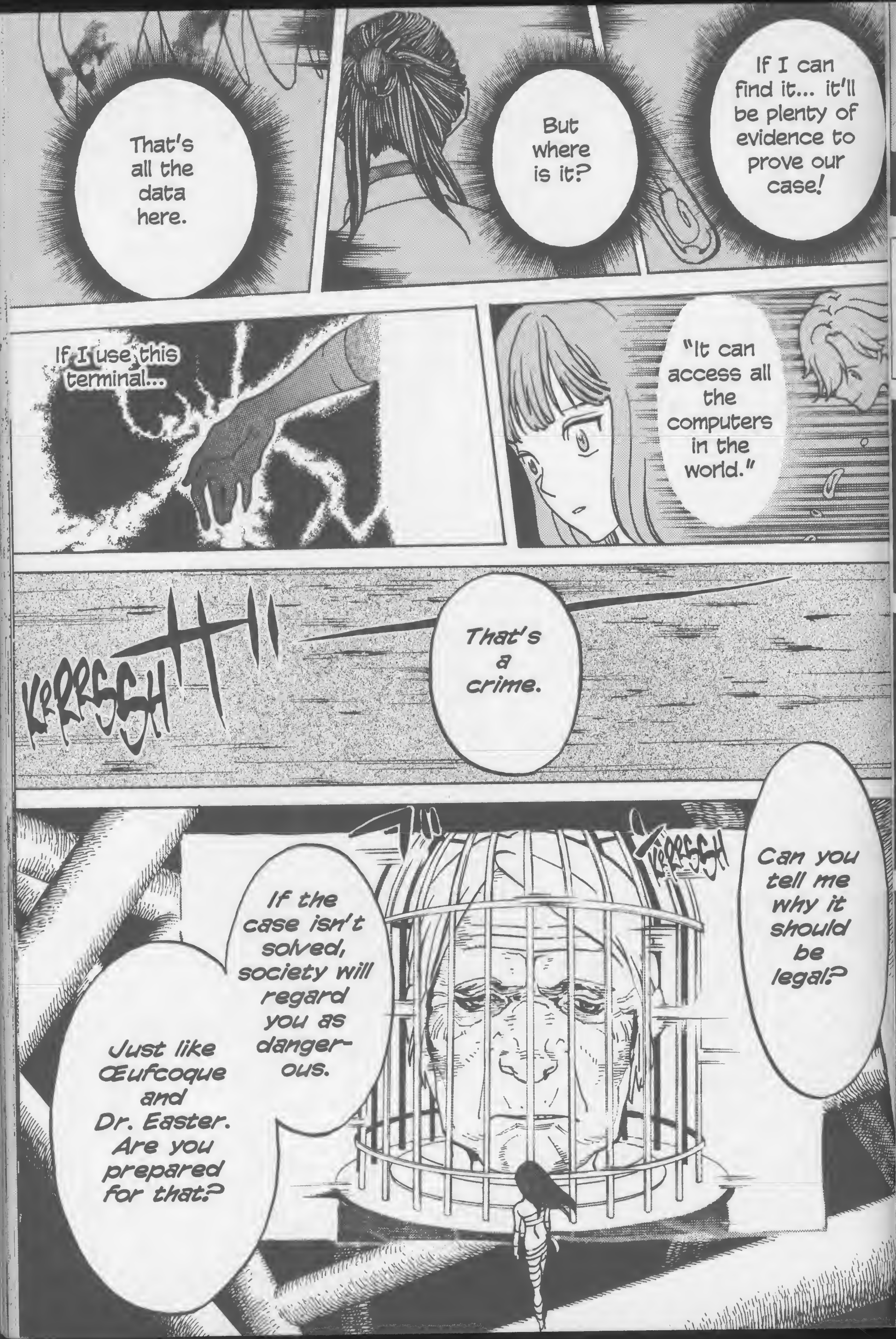

You're a shark.
A shark filled with curiosity from the scent of blood.
BANG BANG
It's up to you...
...cherubim.

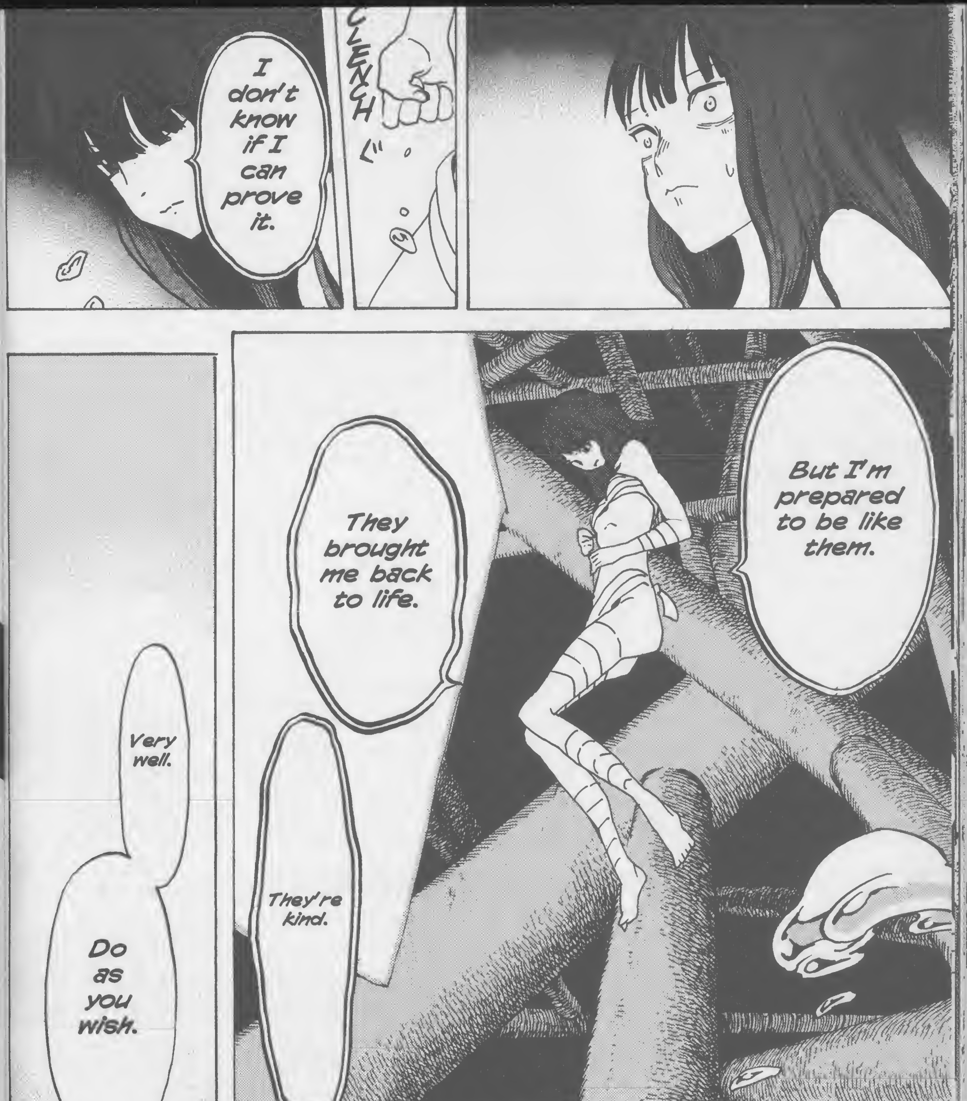

GAAARR
In the...
...place of Œufcoque, you know.
SNAP
SNAP
GAARR

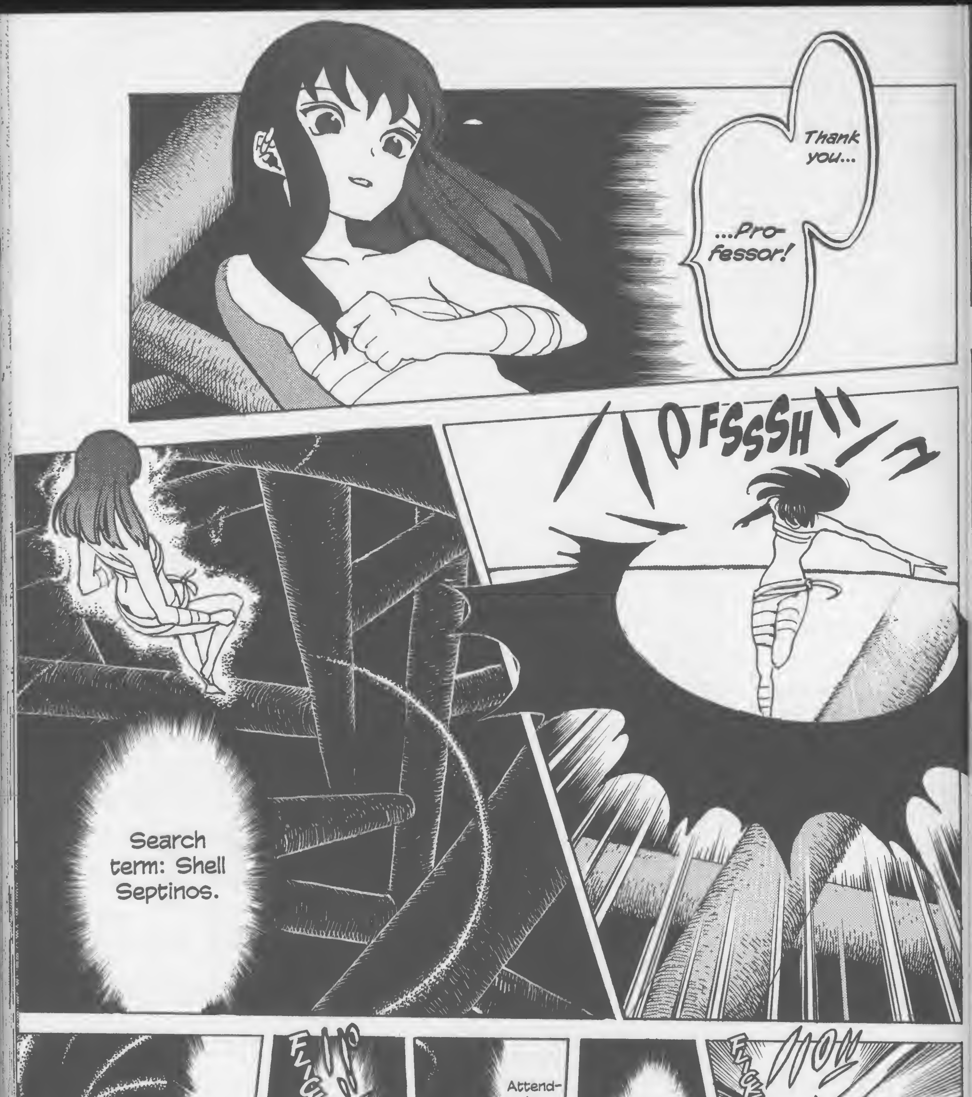

The data inside of him.
I might find something in it!
Tweedleaum.
I have something to do here.
Can you take care of the rest?
Okay.
Don't know what you're up to, but don't access Paradise's forbidden data!
I won't.
I'll extract the data from this liquid.
キュル SPIN
Okay.
ジジ FLICKER

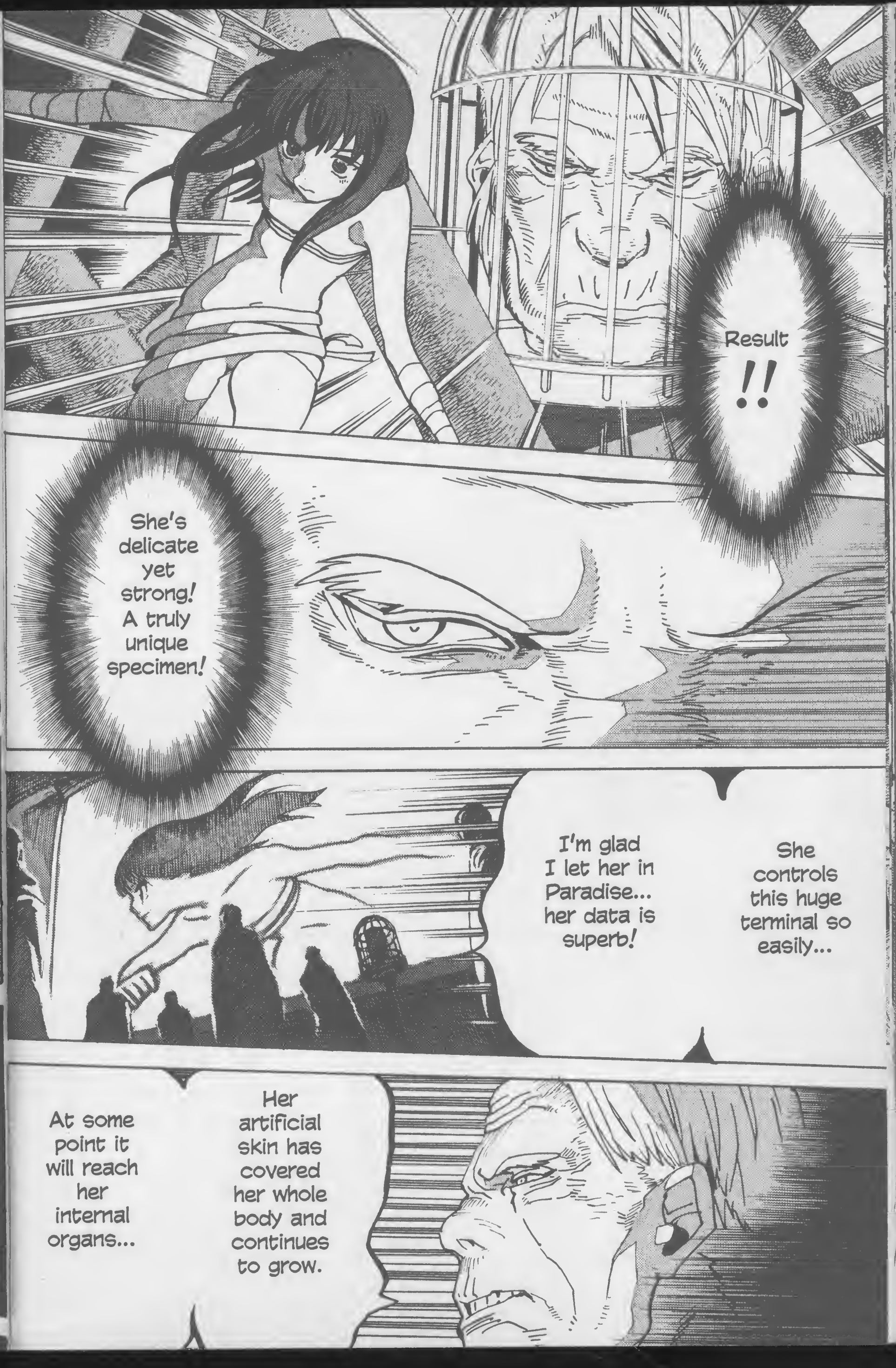

ズ KSSSH
キュル SPIN
Shark... this is what he saw before.
Rewind...
SPIN キュル
キュル SPIN
Here!!
This is what I saw!

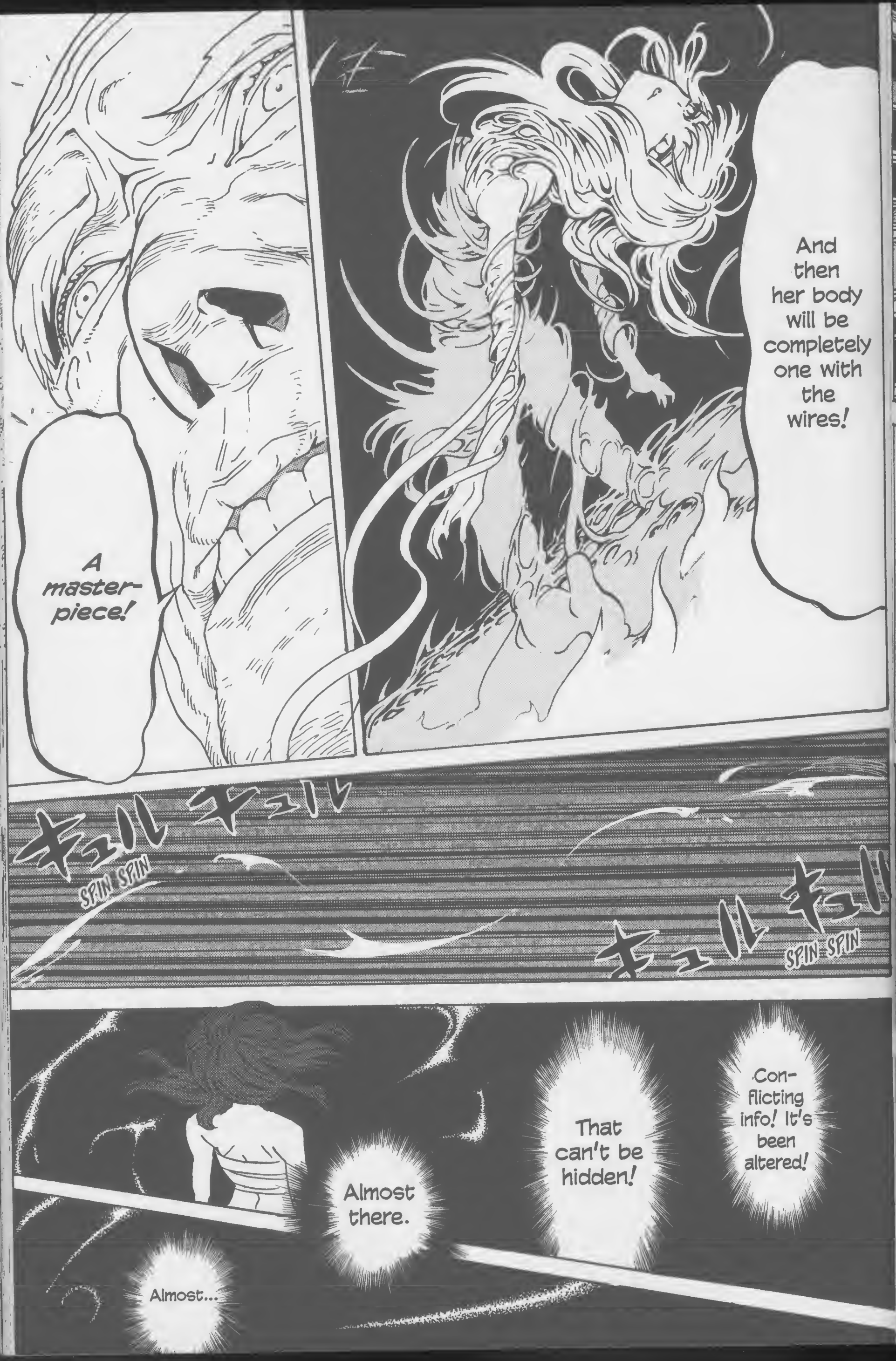

What's on his temple?
Now it's gone from your head.
Is this when his memory got erased?
Now we just have to hide it.
Hide it...?
I've seen that before...
That's Shell's memory data!!

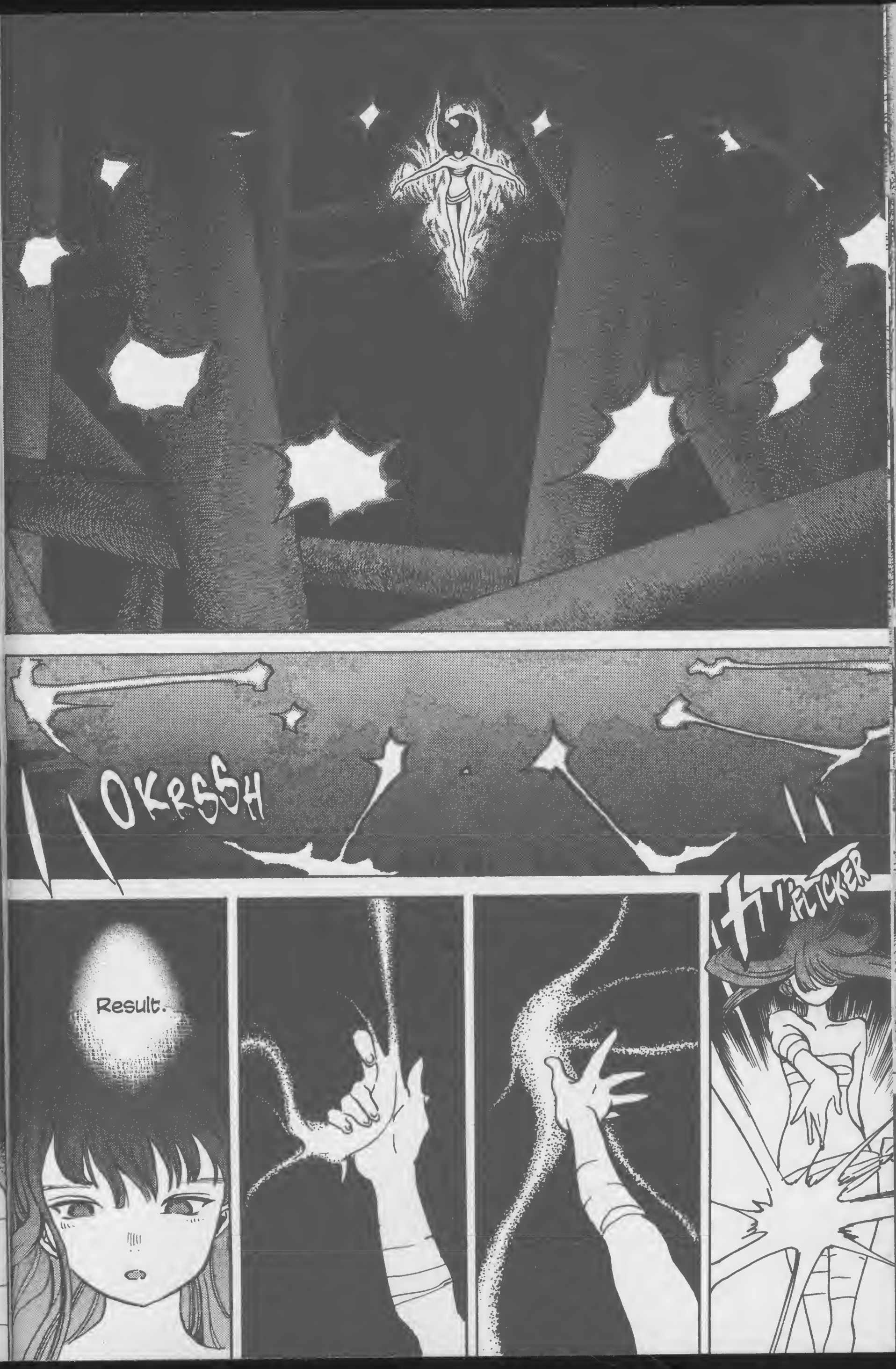

If I can find it... it'll be plenty of evidence to prove our case!
But where is it?
That's all the data here.
"It can access all the computers in the world."
If I use this terminal...
That's a crime.
KRRRSSH
KRRSSH
Can you tell me why it should be legal?
If the case isn't solved, society will regard you as danger-ous.
Just like Œufcoque and Dr. Easter. Are you prepared for that?

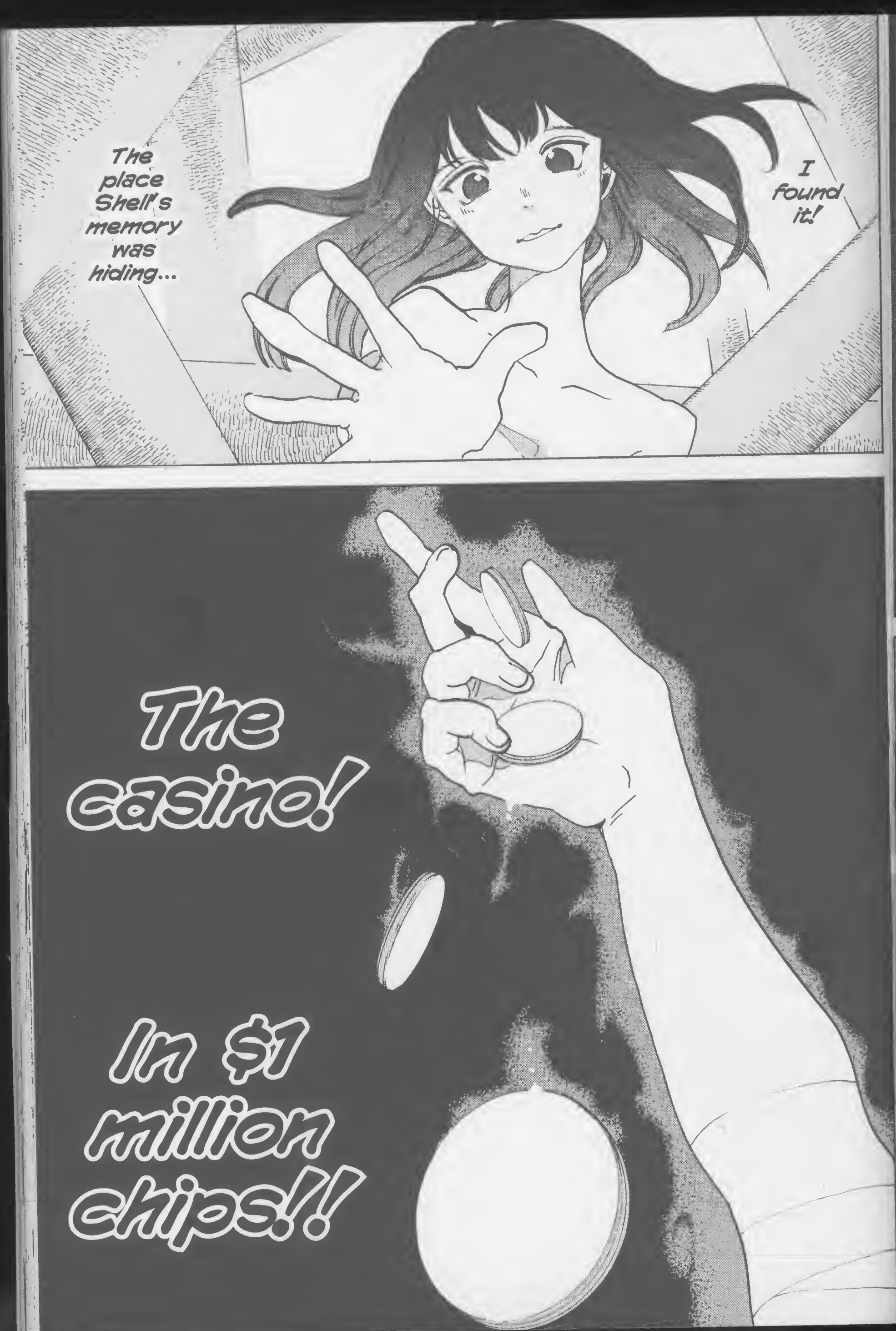

CLENCH
I don't know if I can prove it.
They brought me back to life.
They're kind.
But I'm prepared to be like them.
Very well.
Do as you wish.


Thank you...
...Professor!
PFSSSH
Search term: Shell Septinos.
FLICKER
FWOOM
キュル SPIN
100 results.
Attending doctor.
Neuroscientist.
FLICKER
Next result.
Memory data.
Private tool.
Private Program.

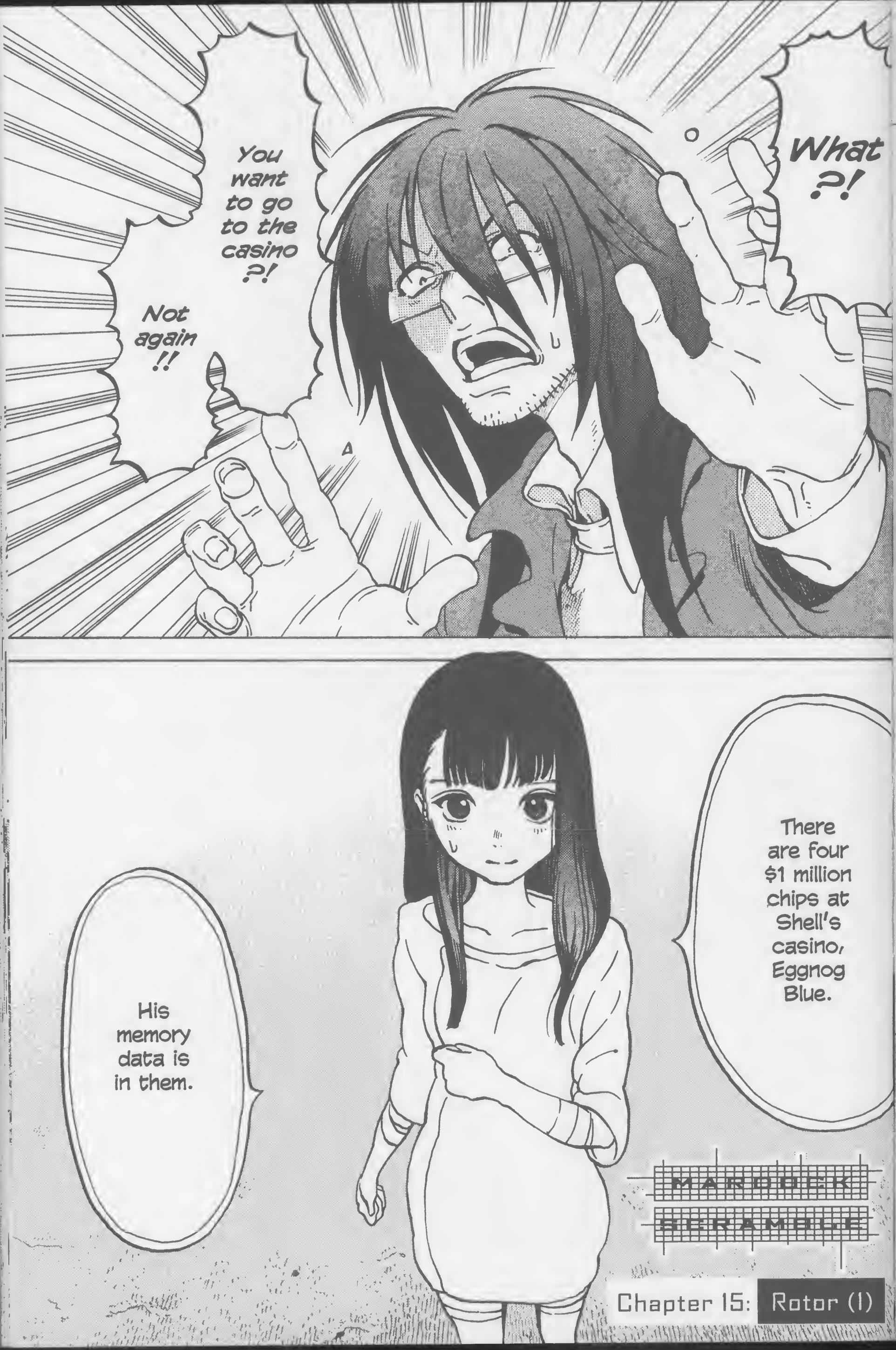

Result!!
She's delicate yet strong! A truly unique specimen!
She controls this huge terminal so easily...
I'm glad I let her in Paradise... her data is superb!
Her artificial skin has covered her whole body and continues to grow.
At some point it will reach her internal organs...


And then her body will be completely one with the wires!
A masterpiece!
キュル キュル
SPIN SPIN
キュル キュル
SPIN SPIN
Conflicting info! It's been altered!
That can't be hidden!
Almost there.
Almost...

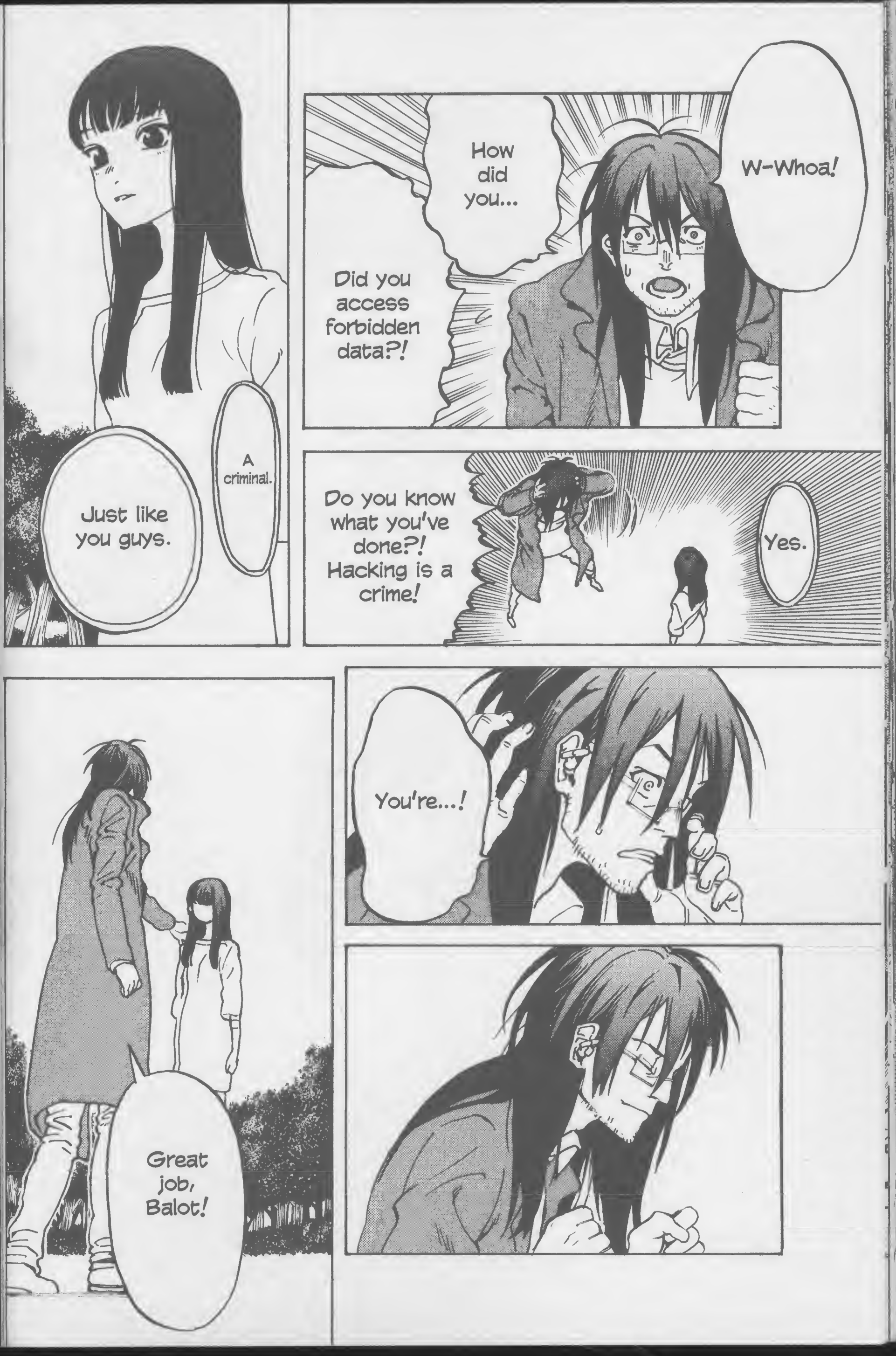

OKRSSH
Result.
FLICKER

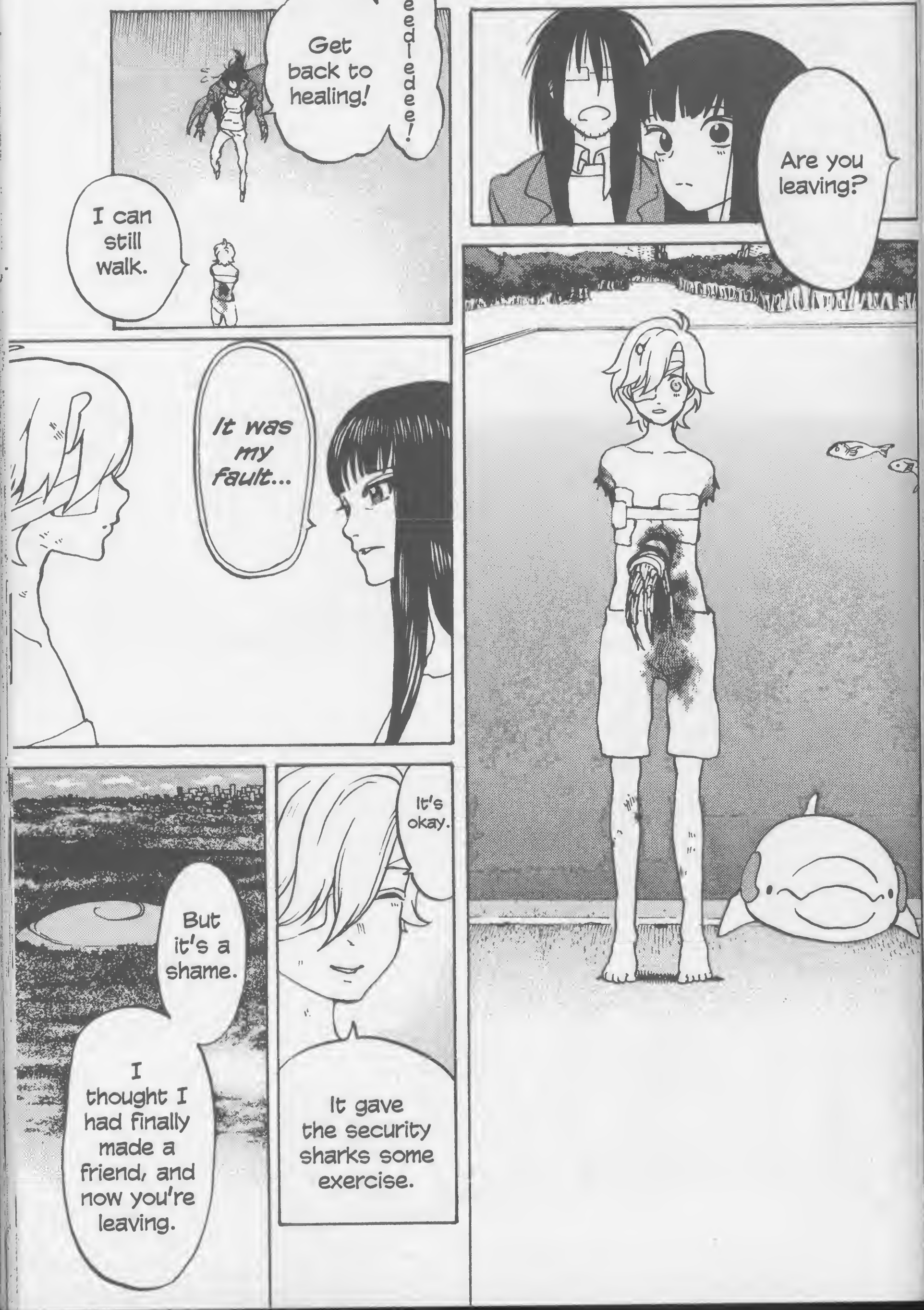

I found it!
The place Shell's memory was hiding...
The casino!
In $1 million chips!!

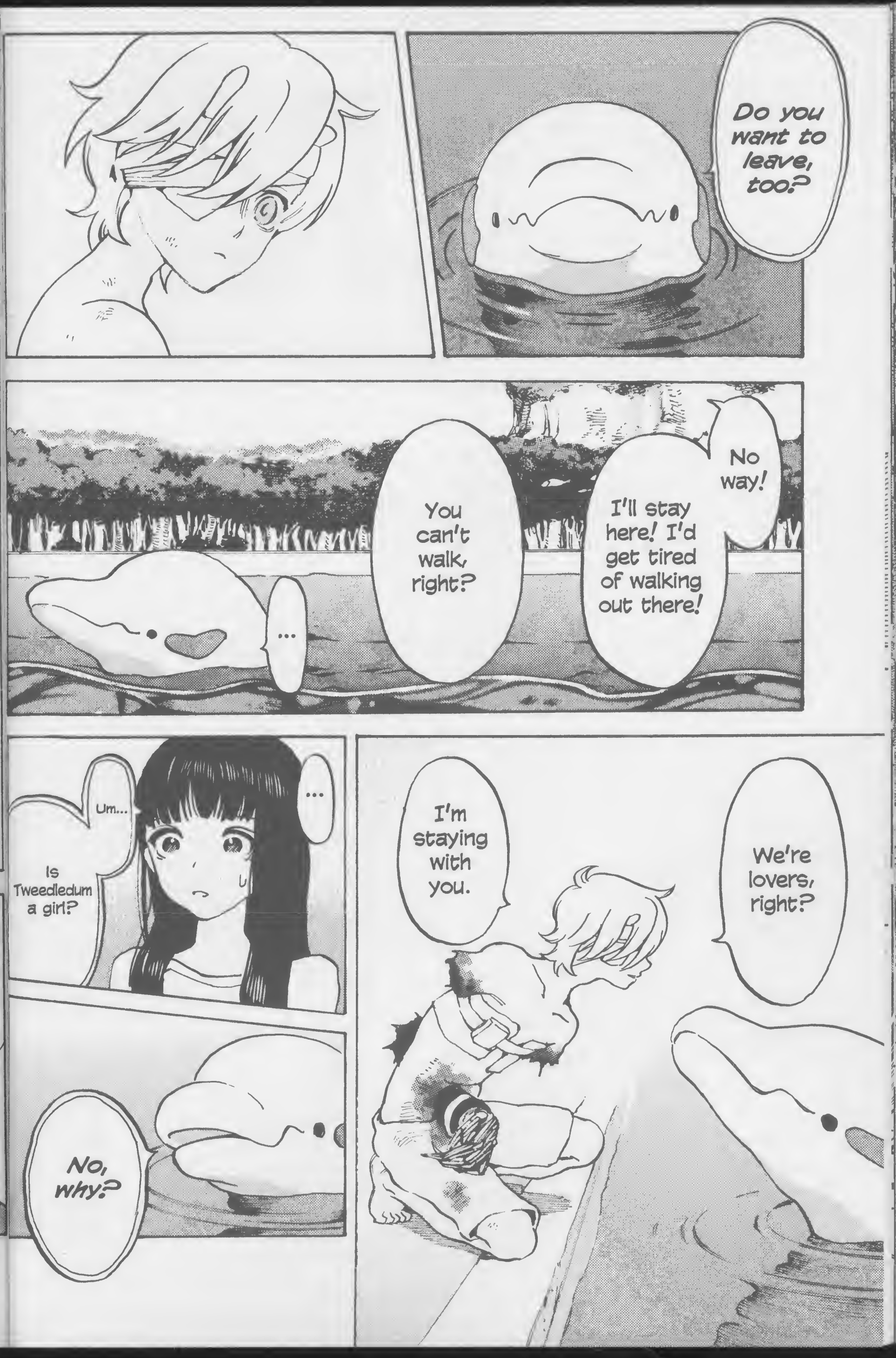
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

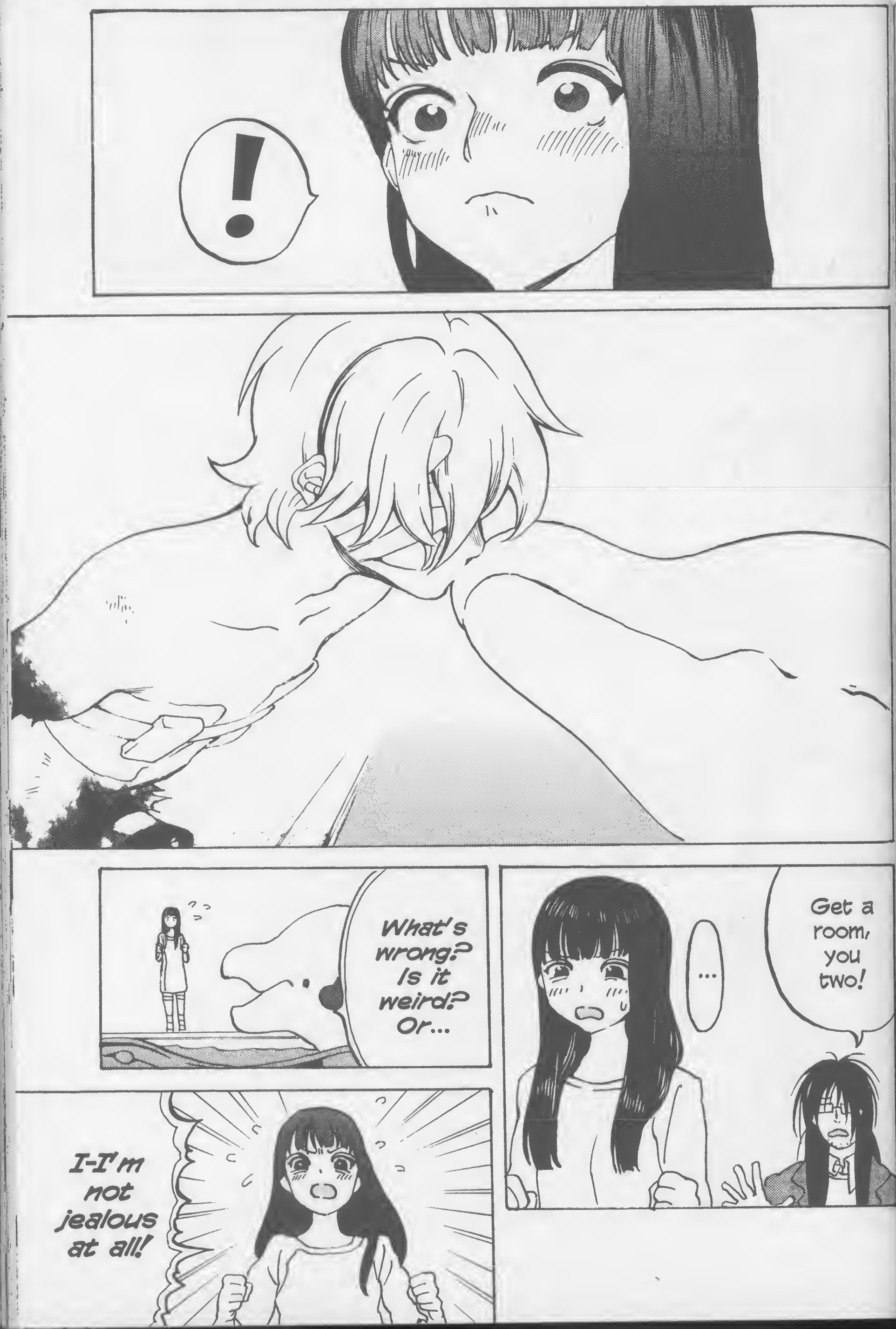

What?!
You want to go to the casino?!
Not again!!
There are four $1 million chips at Shell's casino, Eggnog Blue.
His memory data is in them.
MARDOCK SCRAMBLE

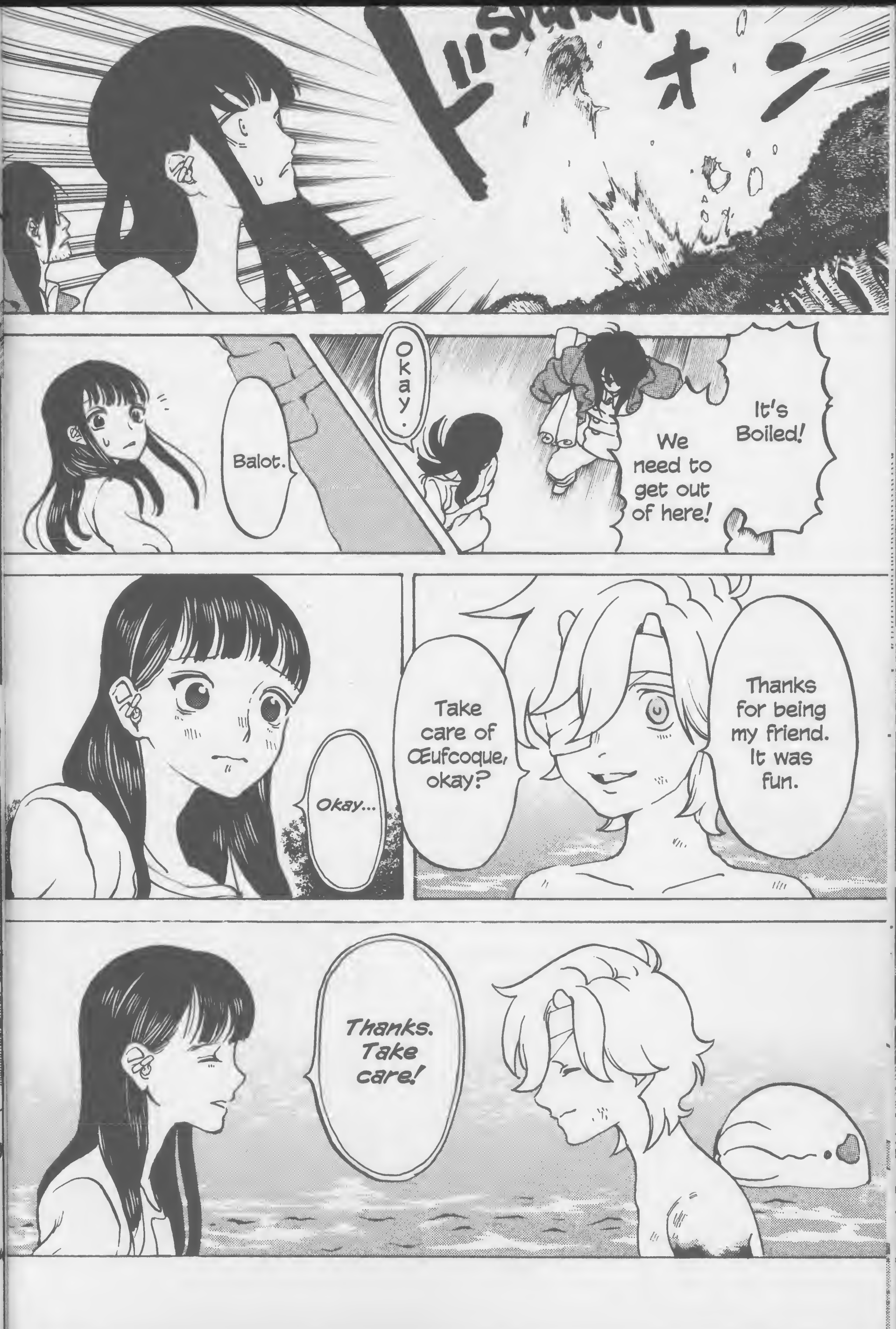
Chapter 15: Rotor (1)

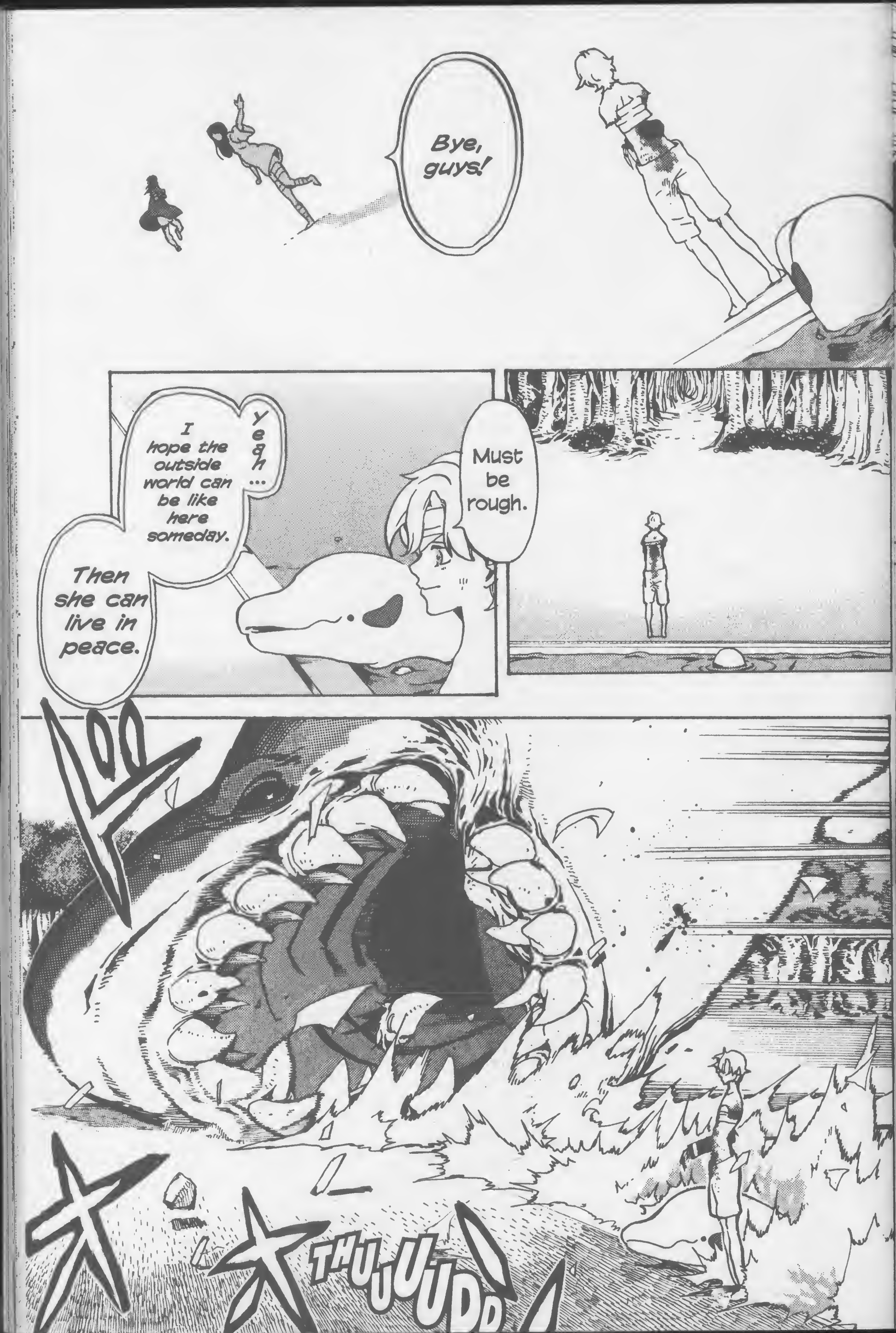

W-Whoa!
How did you...
Did you access forbidden data?!
Yes.
Do you know what you've done?! Hacking is a crime!
A criminal.
Just like you guys.
You're...!
Great job, Balot!

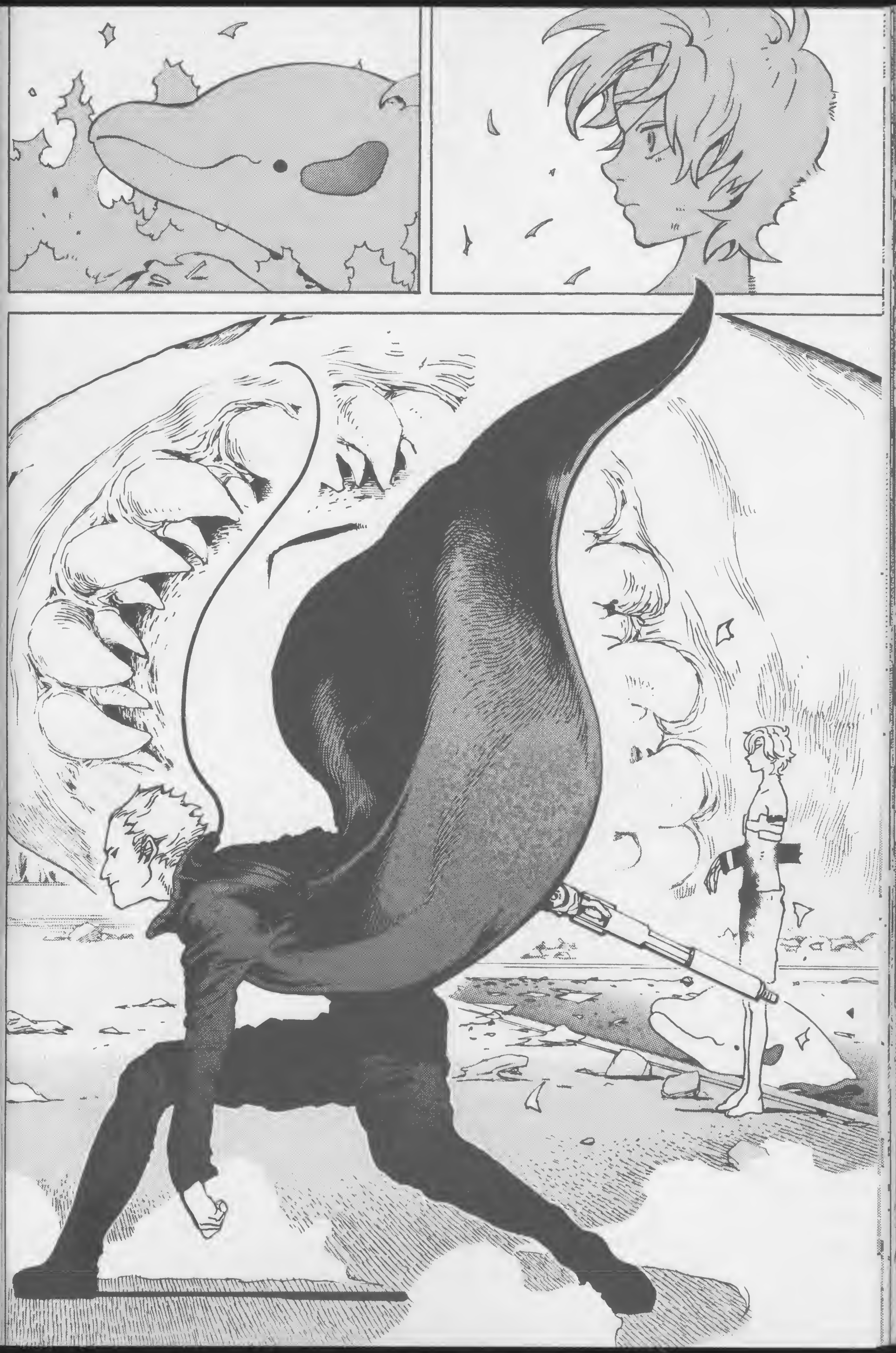

Are you leaving?
Tweedledee!
Get back to healing!
I can still walk.
It was my fault...
It's okay.
It gave the security sharks some exercise.
But it's a shame.
I thought I had finally made a friend, and now you're leaving.

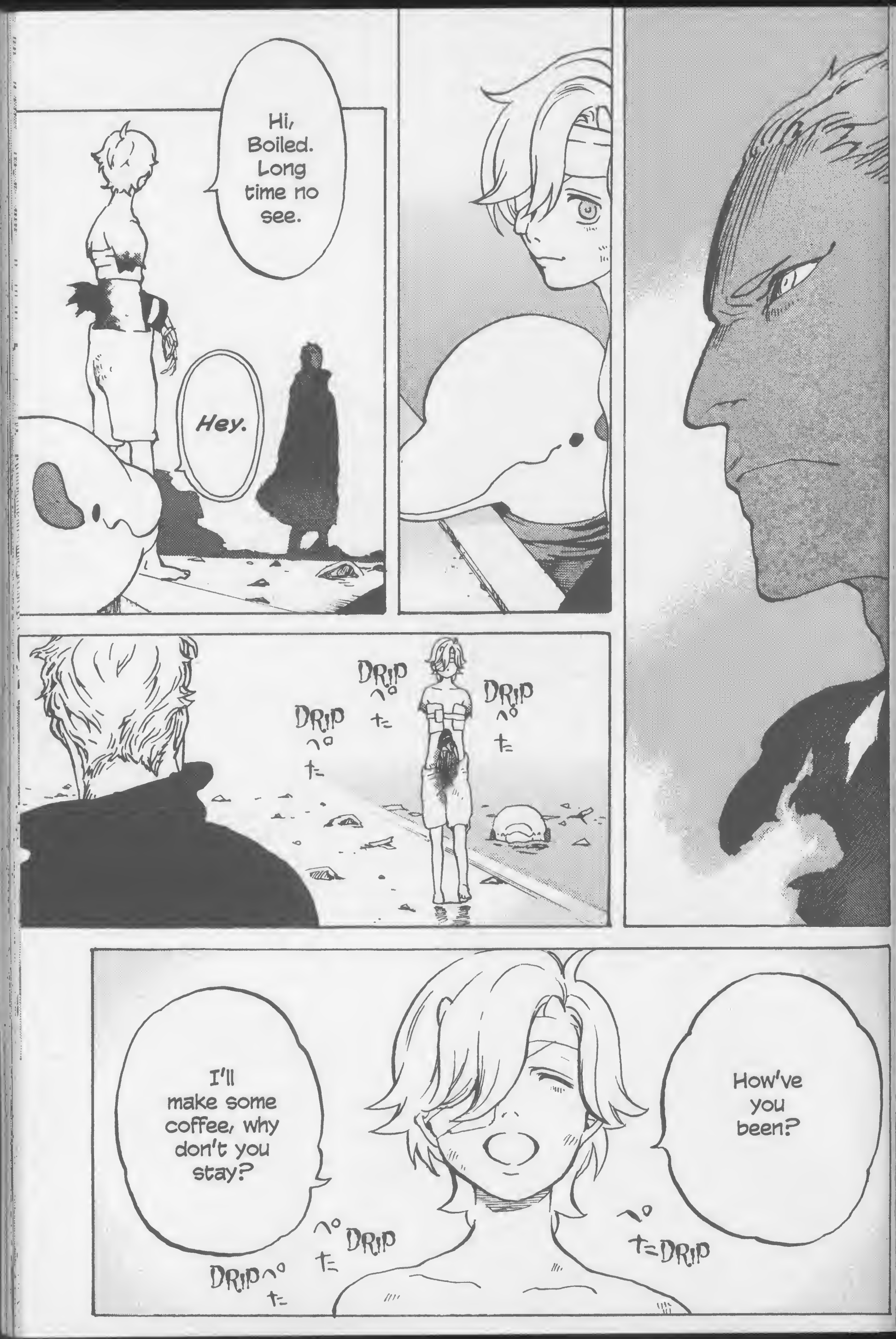

Do you want to leave, too?
No way!
I'll stay here! I'd get tired of walking out there!
You can't walk, right?
...
We're lovers, right?
I'm staying with you.
...
Um...
Is Tweedledum a girl?
No, why?

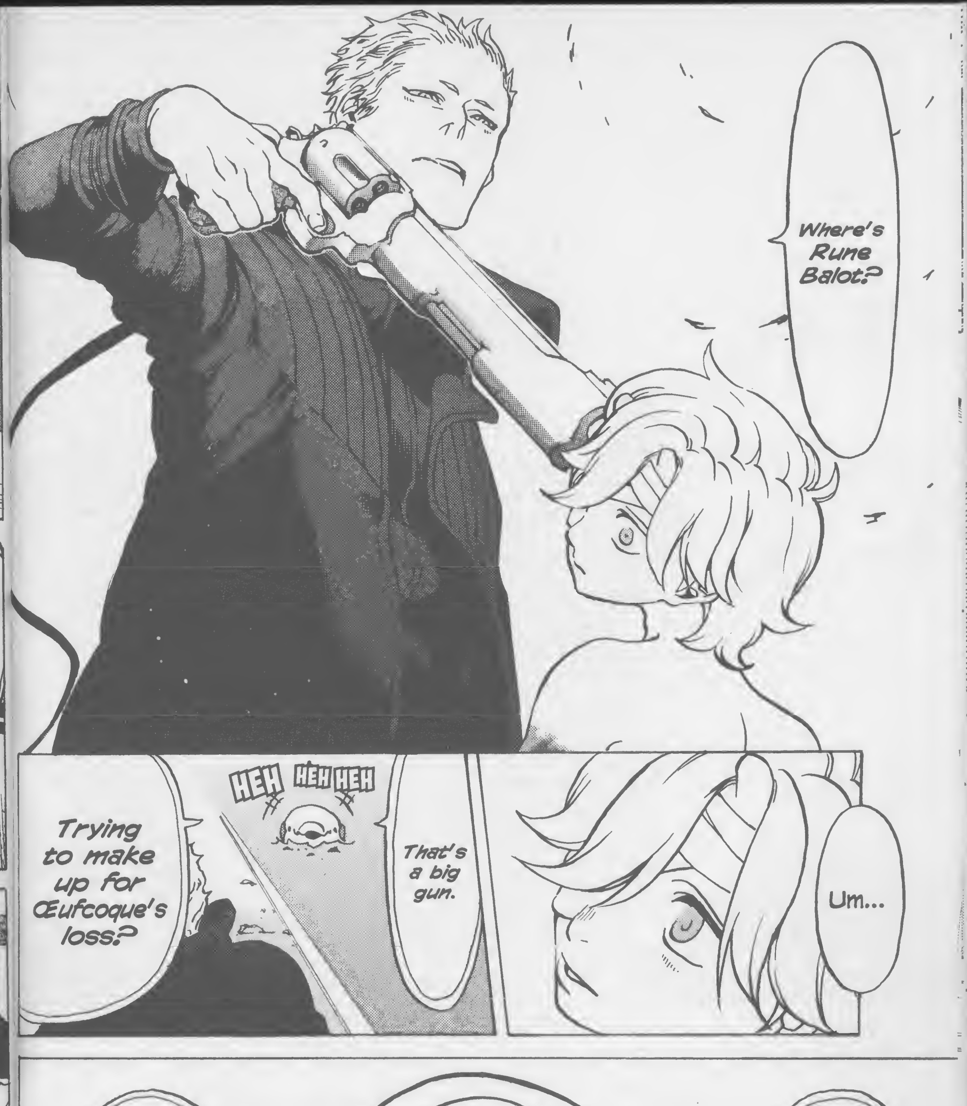

!
What's wrong? Is it weird? Or...
I-I'm not jealous at all!
...
Get a room, you two!

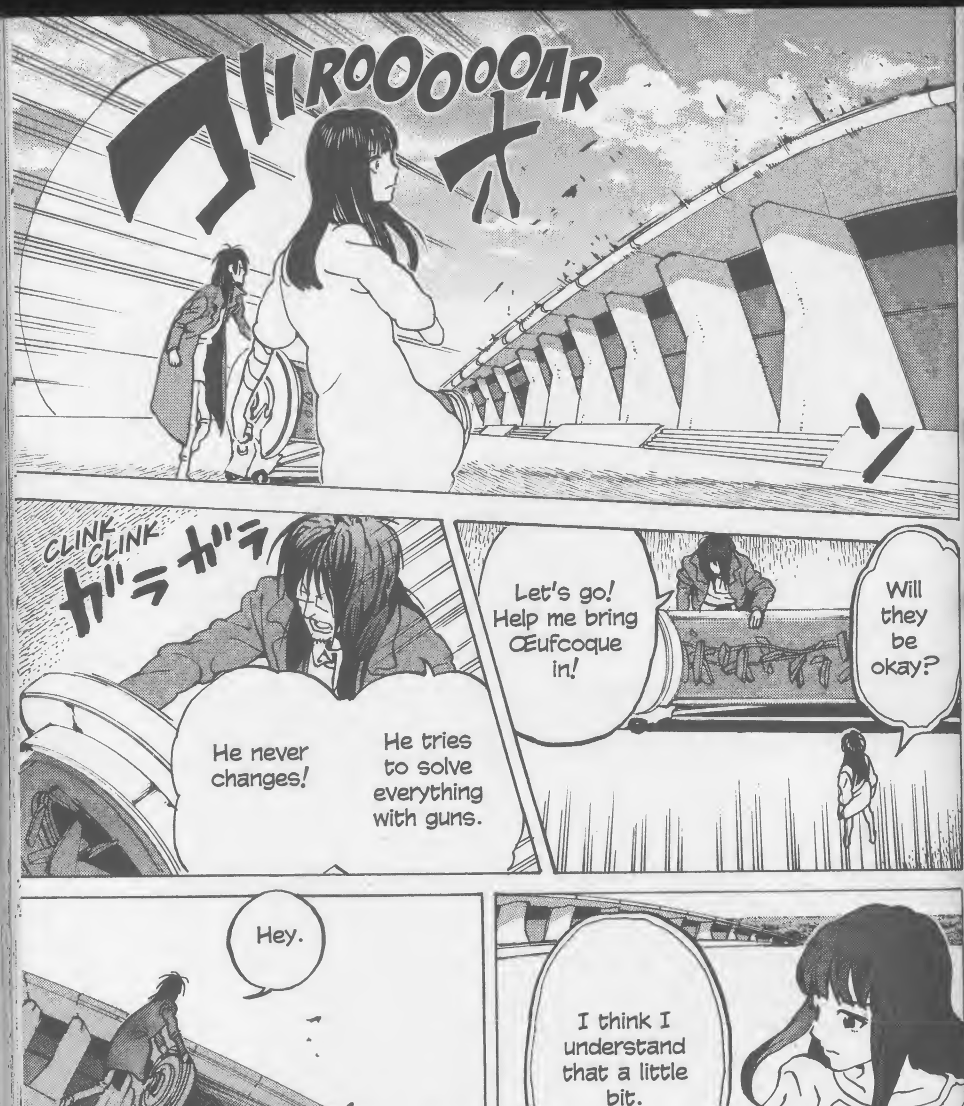

ド
オン
It's Boiled!
We need to get out of here!
Okay.
Balot.
Thanks for being my friend. It was fun.
Take care of Œufcoque, okay?
Okay...
Thanks. Take care!

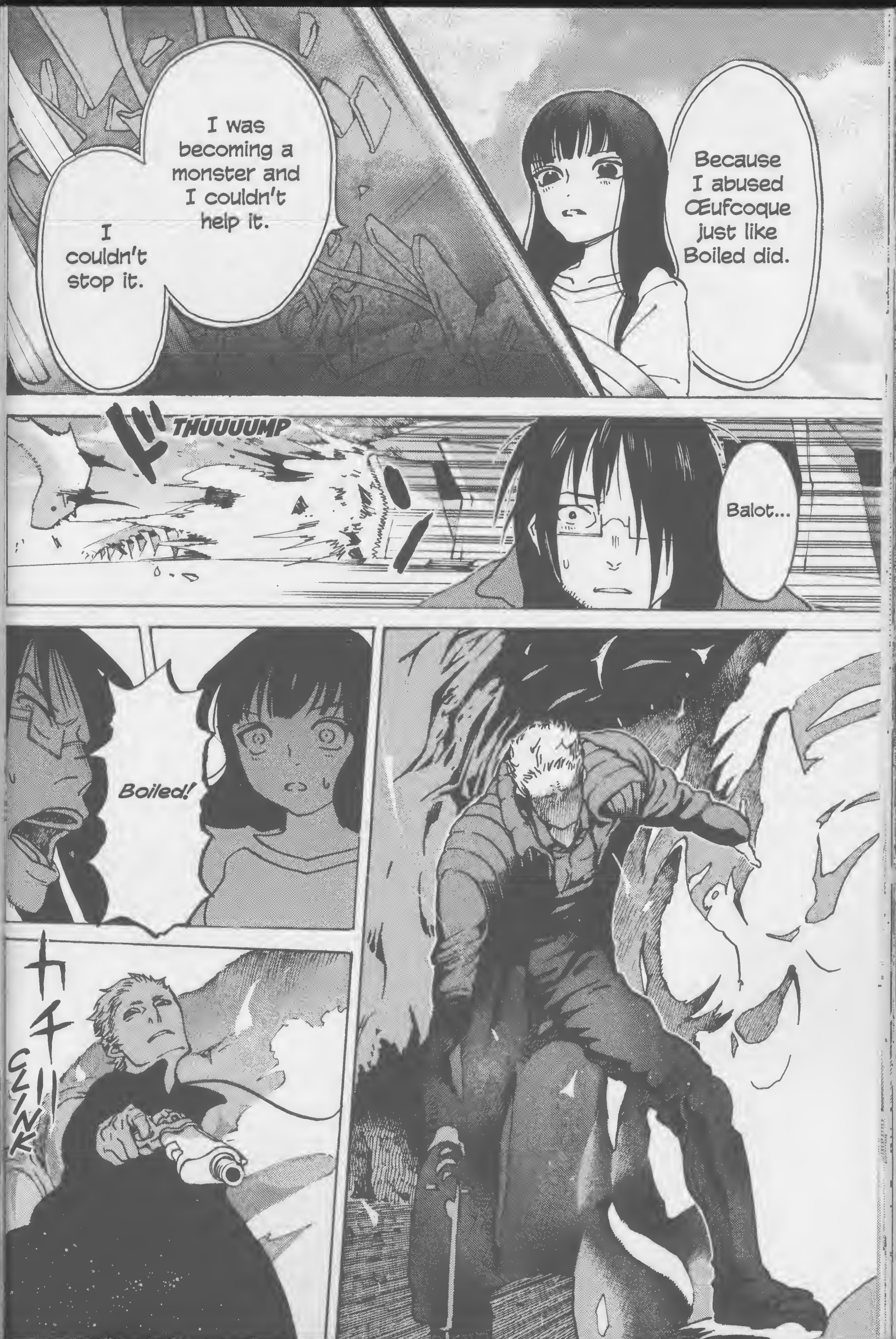

Bye, guys!
Must be rough.
Yeah...
I hope the outside world can be like here someday.
Then she can live in peace.
THUUUUDD

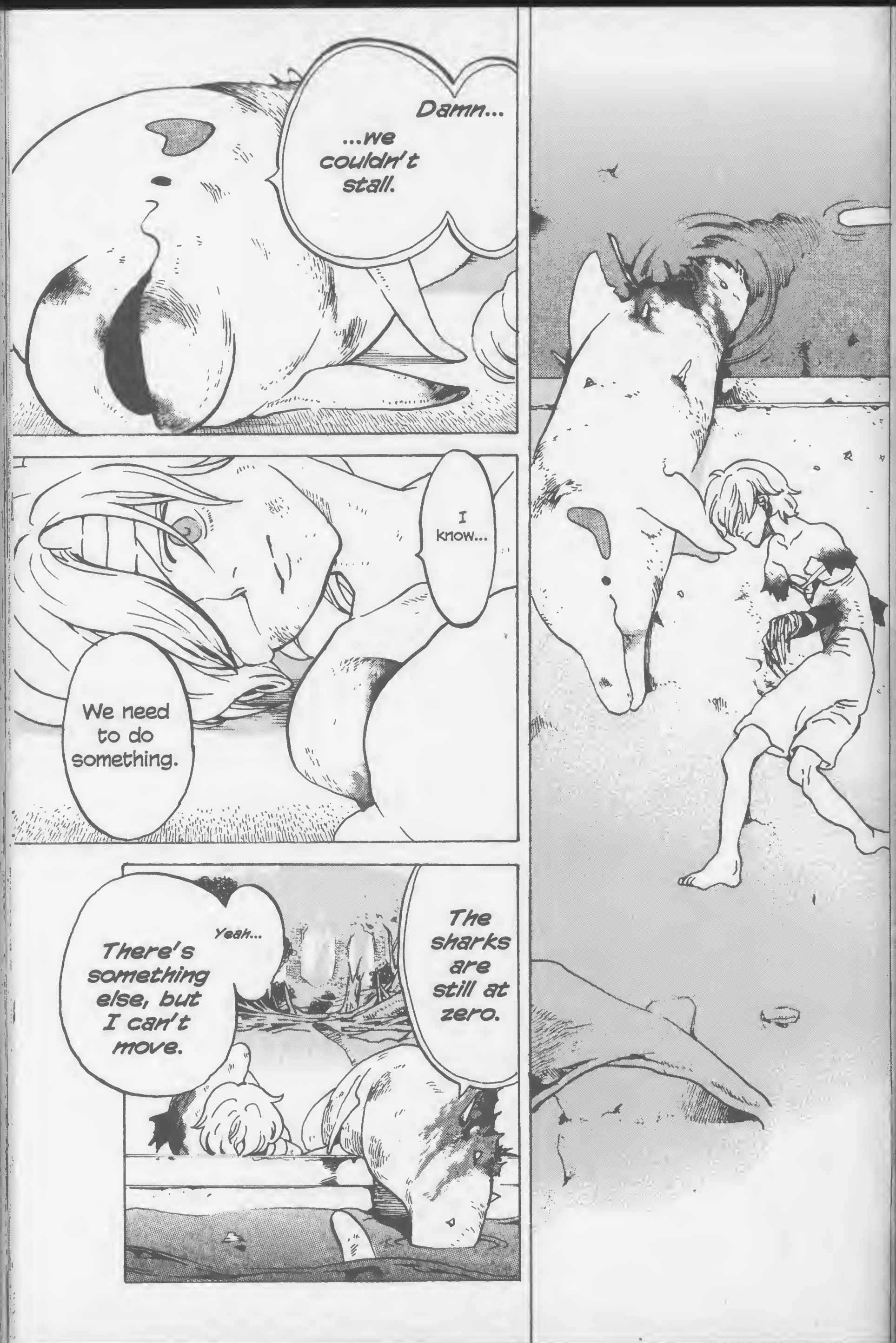


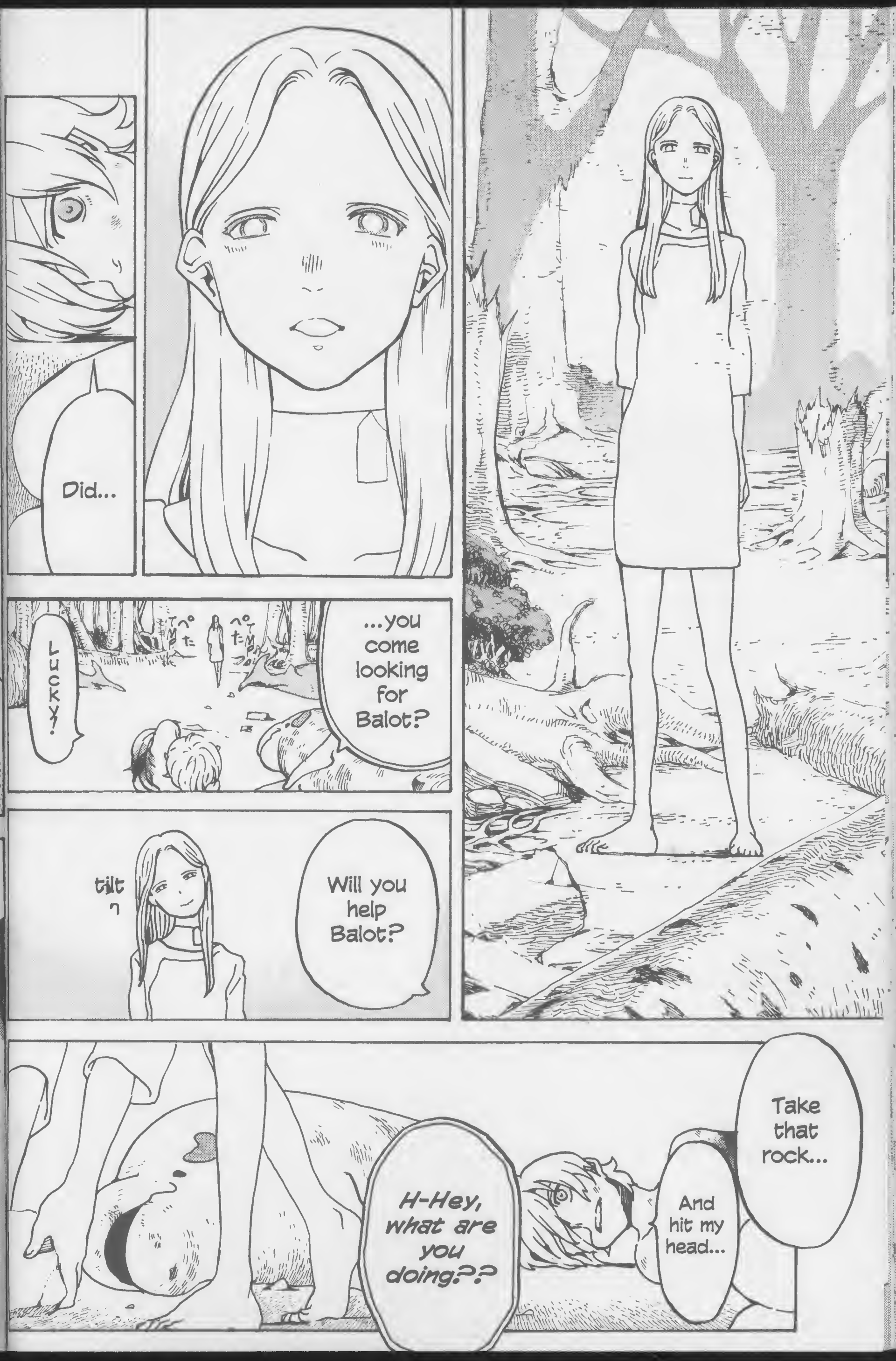

Hi, Boiled. Long time no see.
Hey.
DRIP ぺた
DRIP ぺた
DRIP ぺた
How've you been?
I'll make some coffee, why don't you stay?
ぺた DRIP
ぺた DRIP
DRIP ぺた

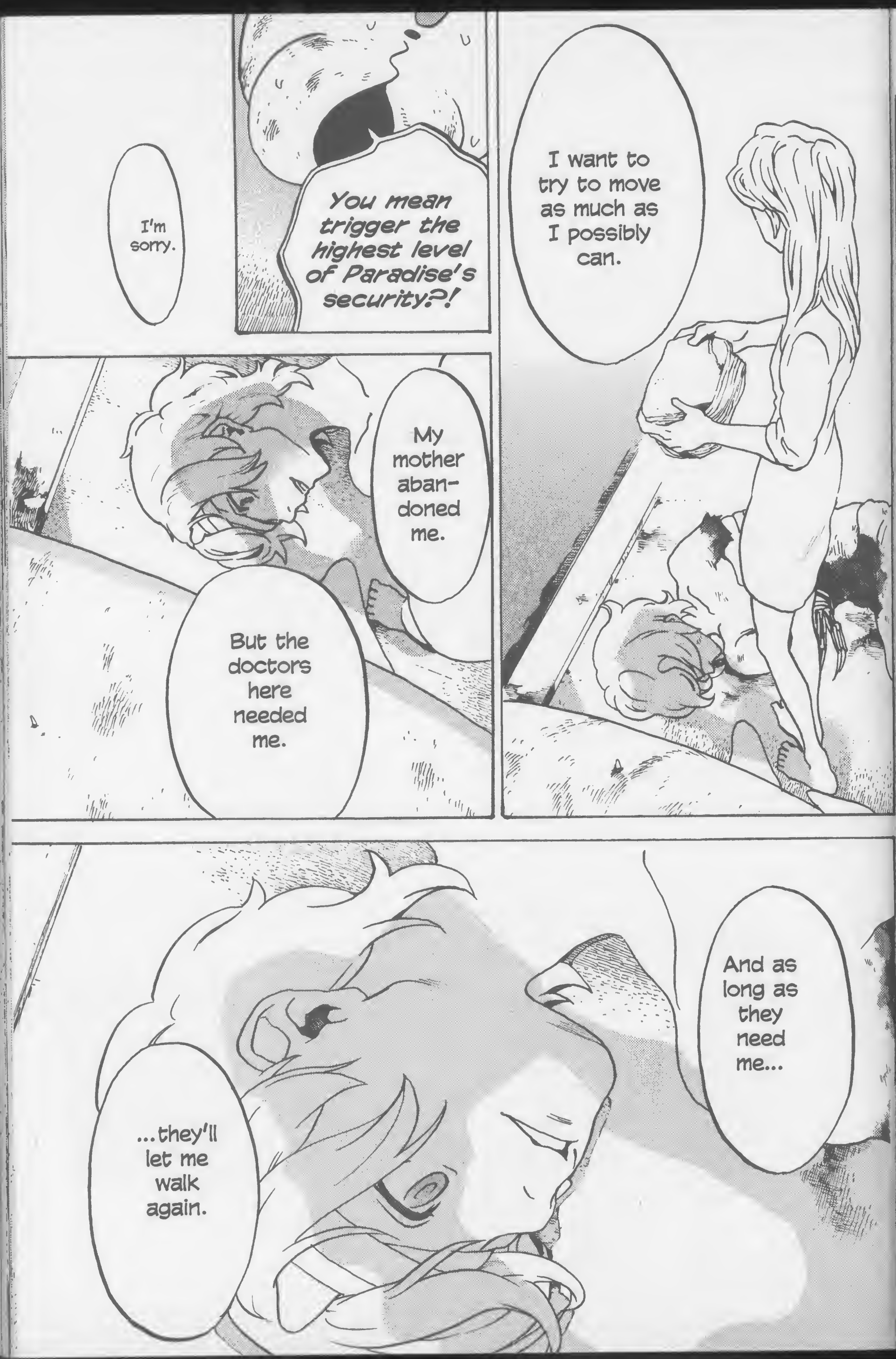

Where's Rune Balot?
Um...
That's a big gun.
HEH HEH HEH
Trying to make up for Œufcoque's loss?
Looks like...
...you'll never be with Œufcoque again!

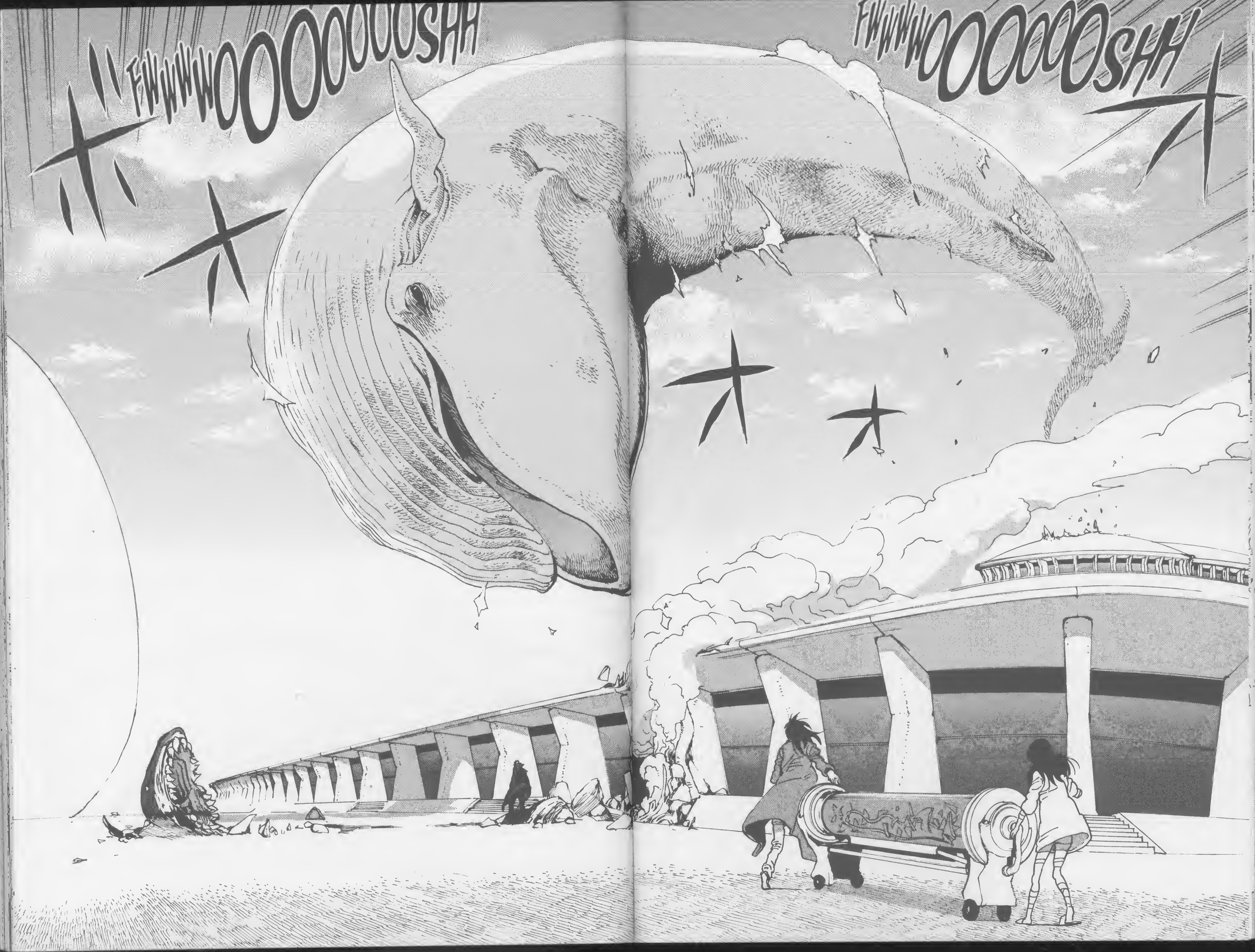

ゴ ROOOOOAR オ
Will they be okay?
Let's go! Help me bring Œufcoque in!
CLINK CLINK ガラガラ
He tries to solve everything with guns.
He never changes!
I think I understand that a little bit.
Hey.
Why?

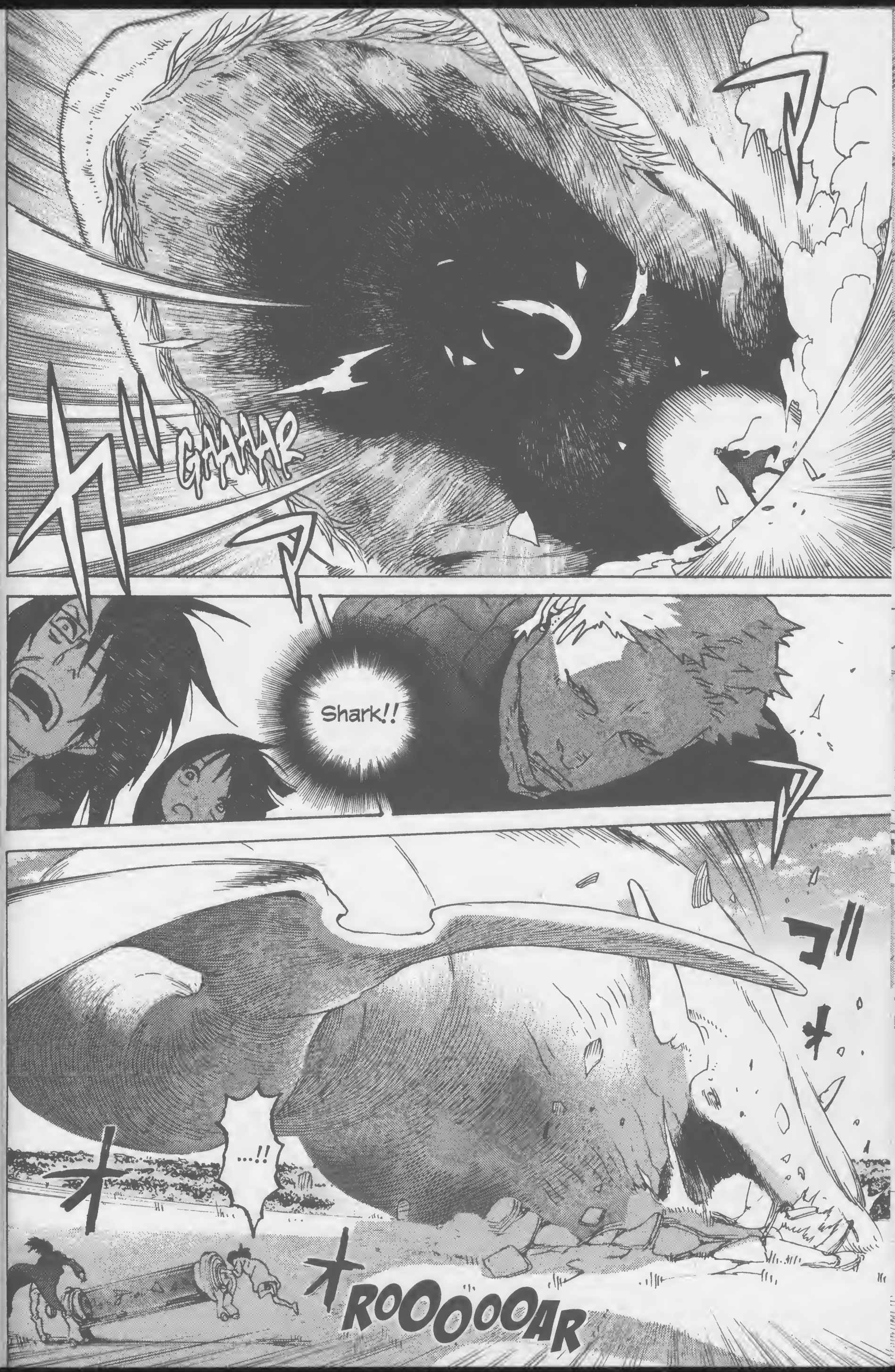

Because I abused Œufcoque just like Boiled did.
I was becoming a monster and I couldn't help it.
I couldn't stop it.
Balot...
ド THUUUUMP
Boiled!
カチ CLINK

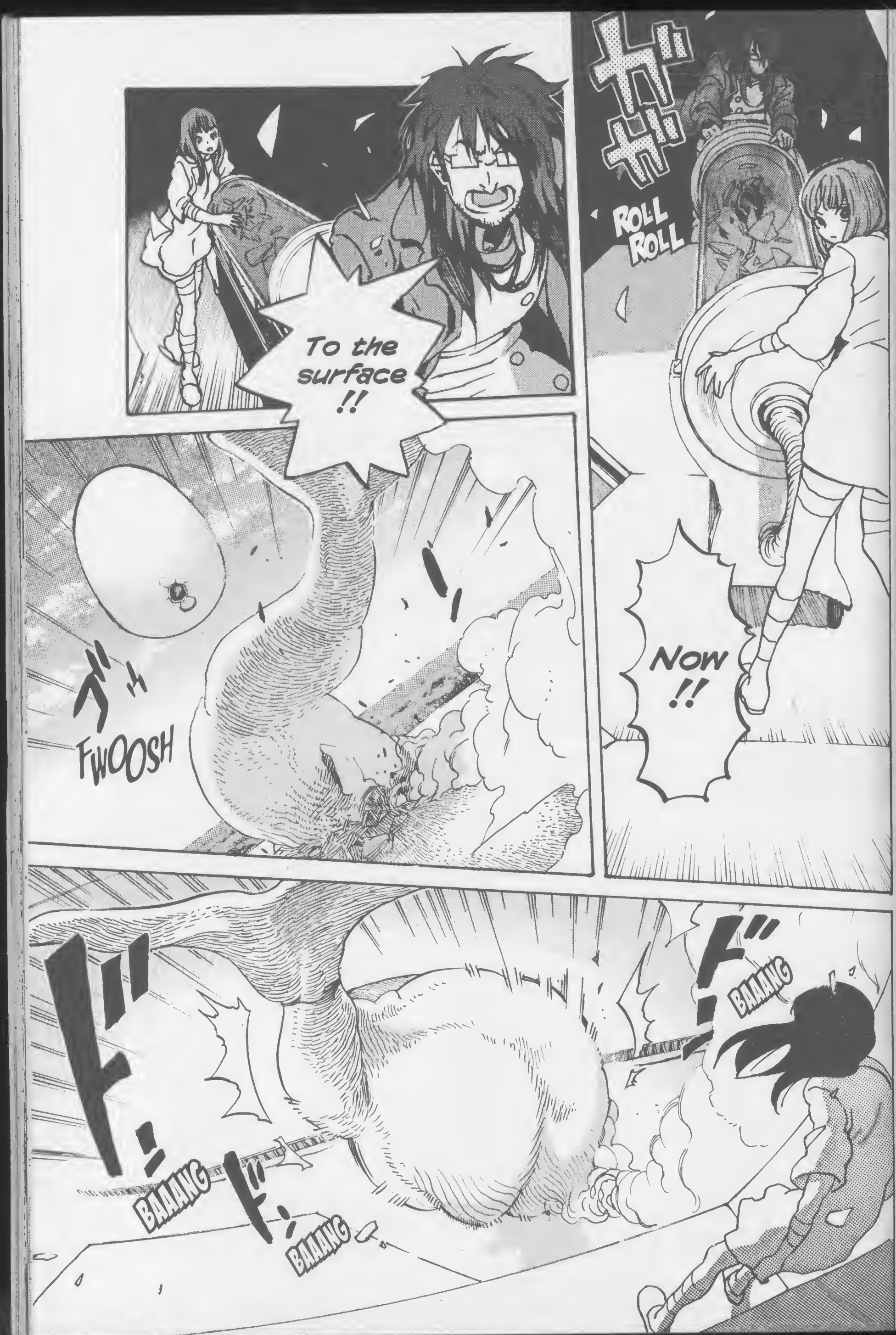

Damn... ...we couldn't stall.
I know...
We need to do something.
The sharks are still at zero.
Yeah...
There's something else, but I can't move.

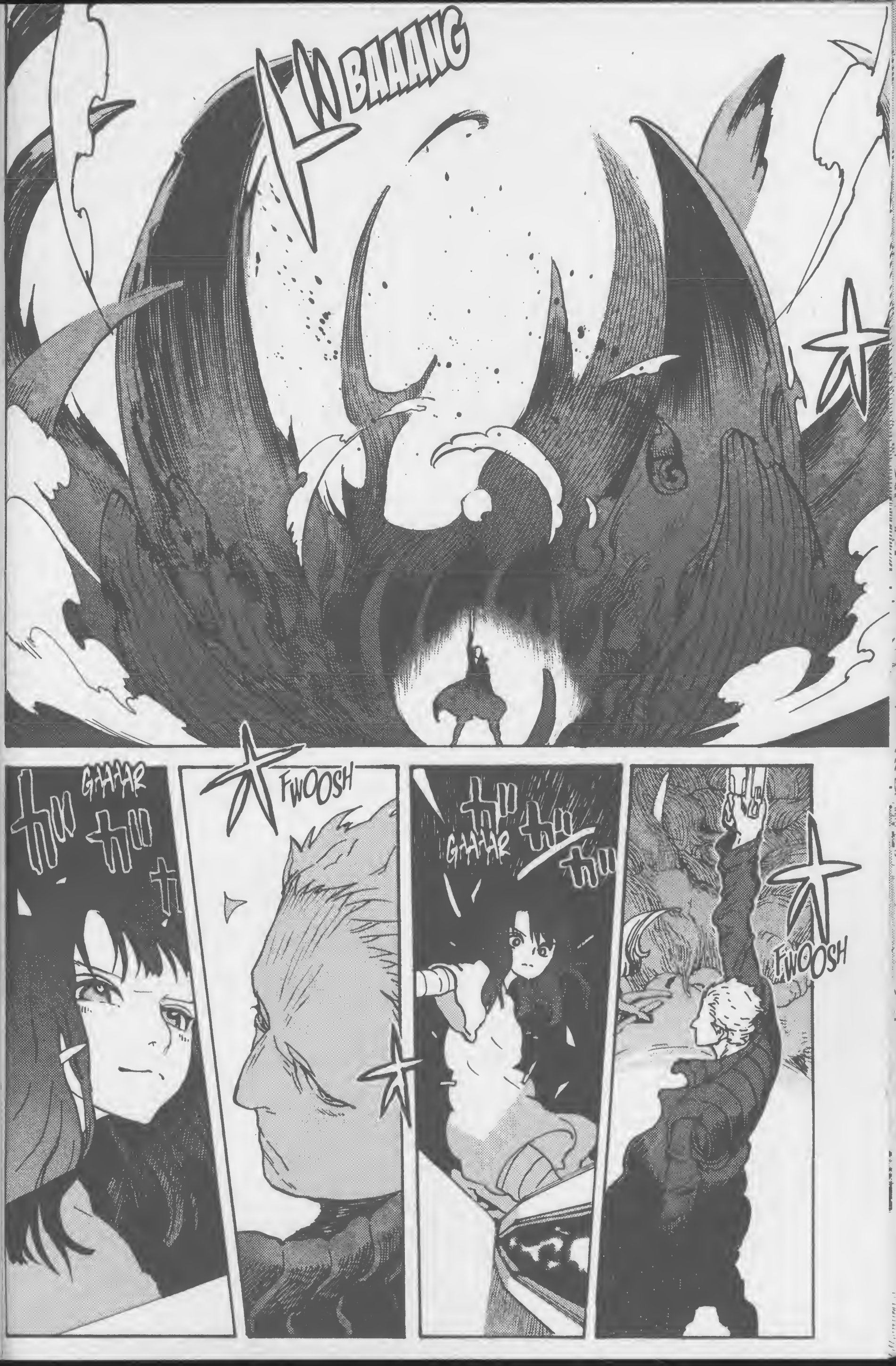

Did...
...you come looking for Balot?
LUCKY!
ぺた TMP
ぺた TMP
Will you help Balot?
tilt
Take that rock...
And hit my head...
H-Hey, what are you doing?!?

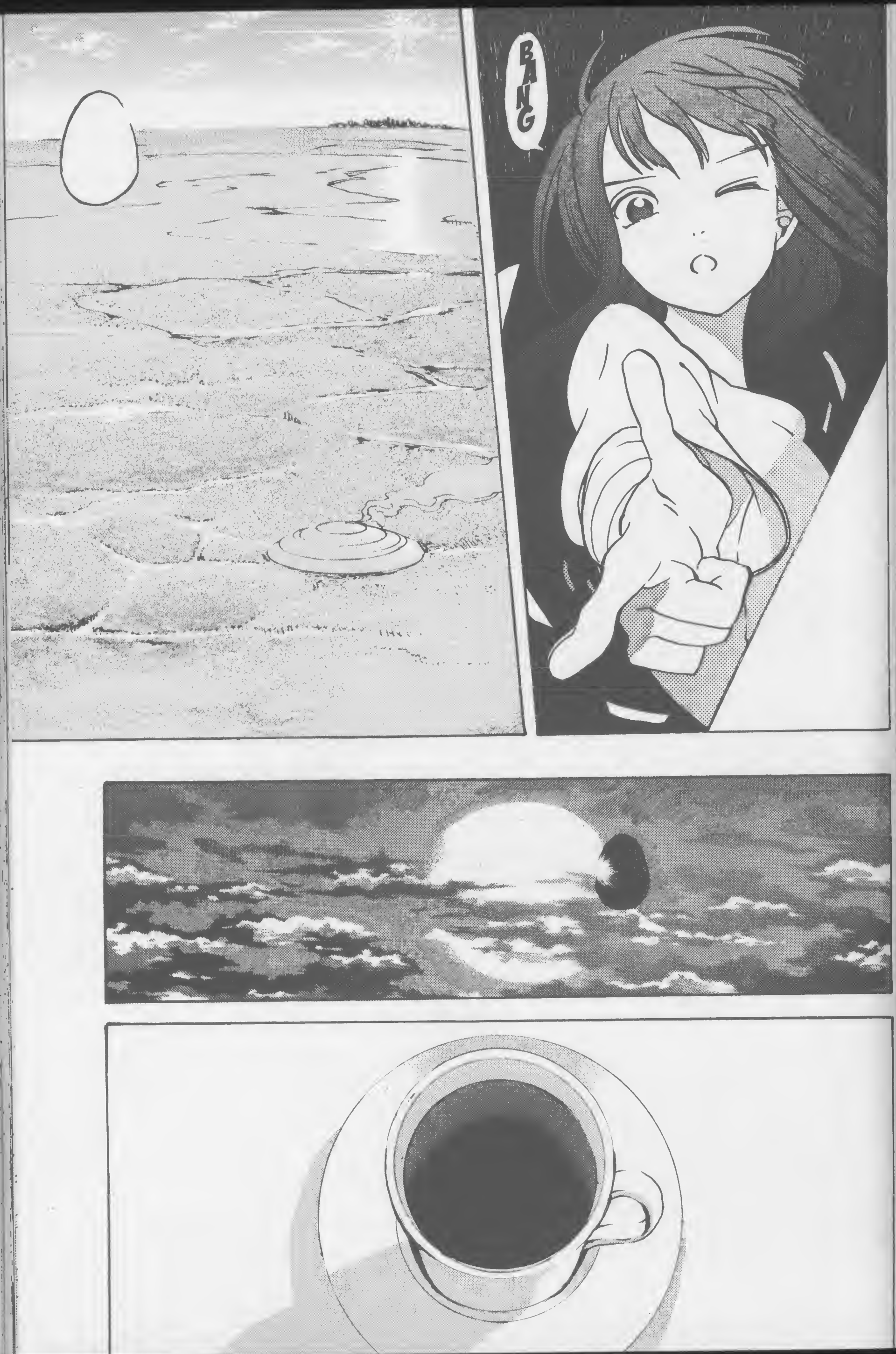

I want to try to move as much as I possibly can.
You mean trigger the highest level of Paradise's security?!
I'm sorry.
My mother abandoned me.
But the doctors here needed me.
And as long as they need me...
...they'll let me walk again.

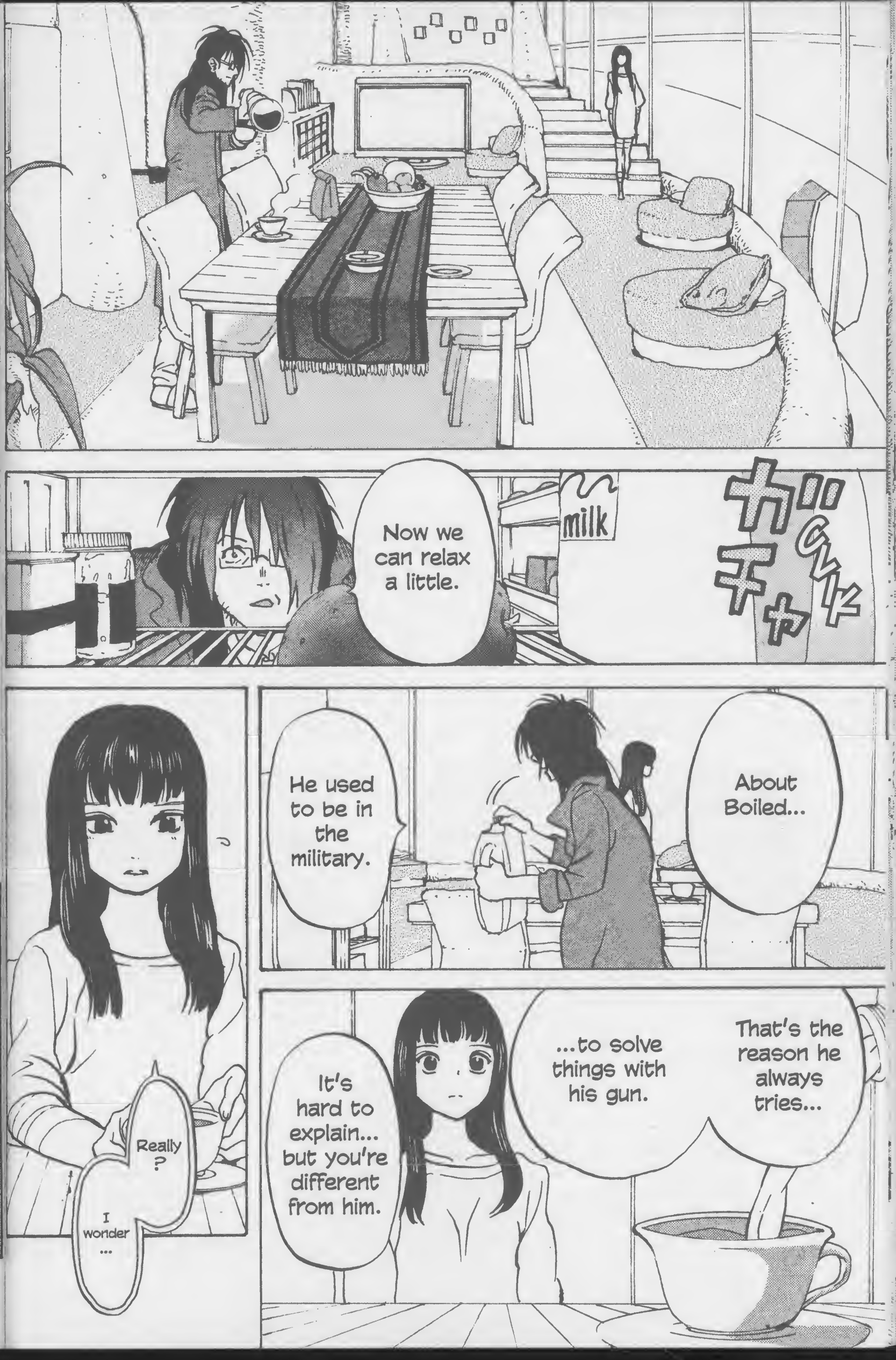

FWWWWOOOOOOOSHH
FWWWWOOOOOOOOSHH

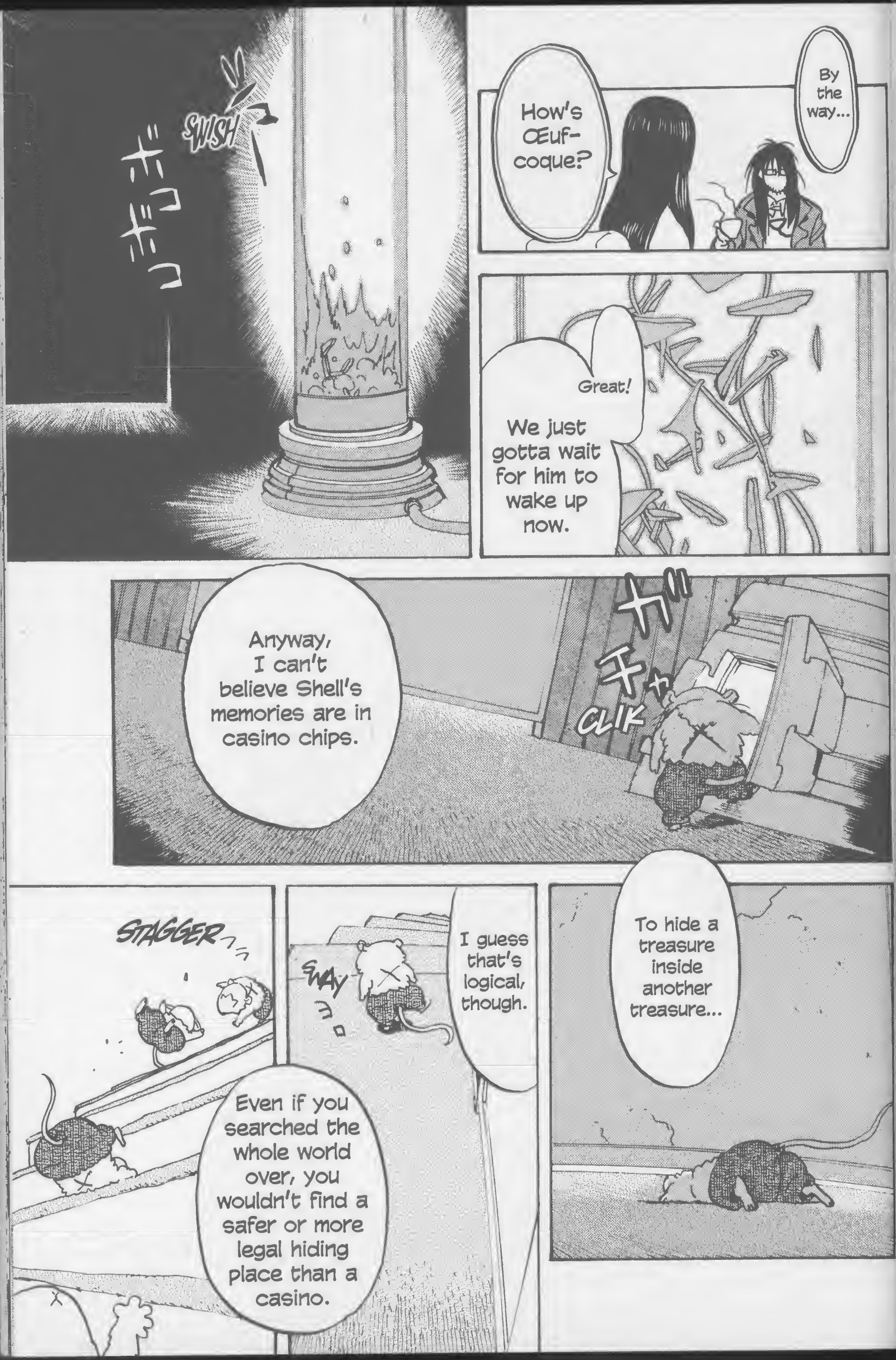

ア
ガッ
GAAAAR
ア
Shark!!
ア
ゴッ
...!!
オ
オ
ROOOOOAR

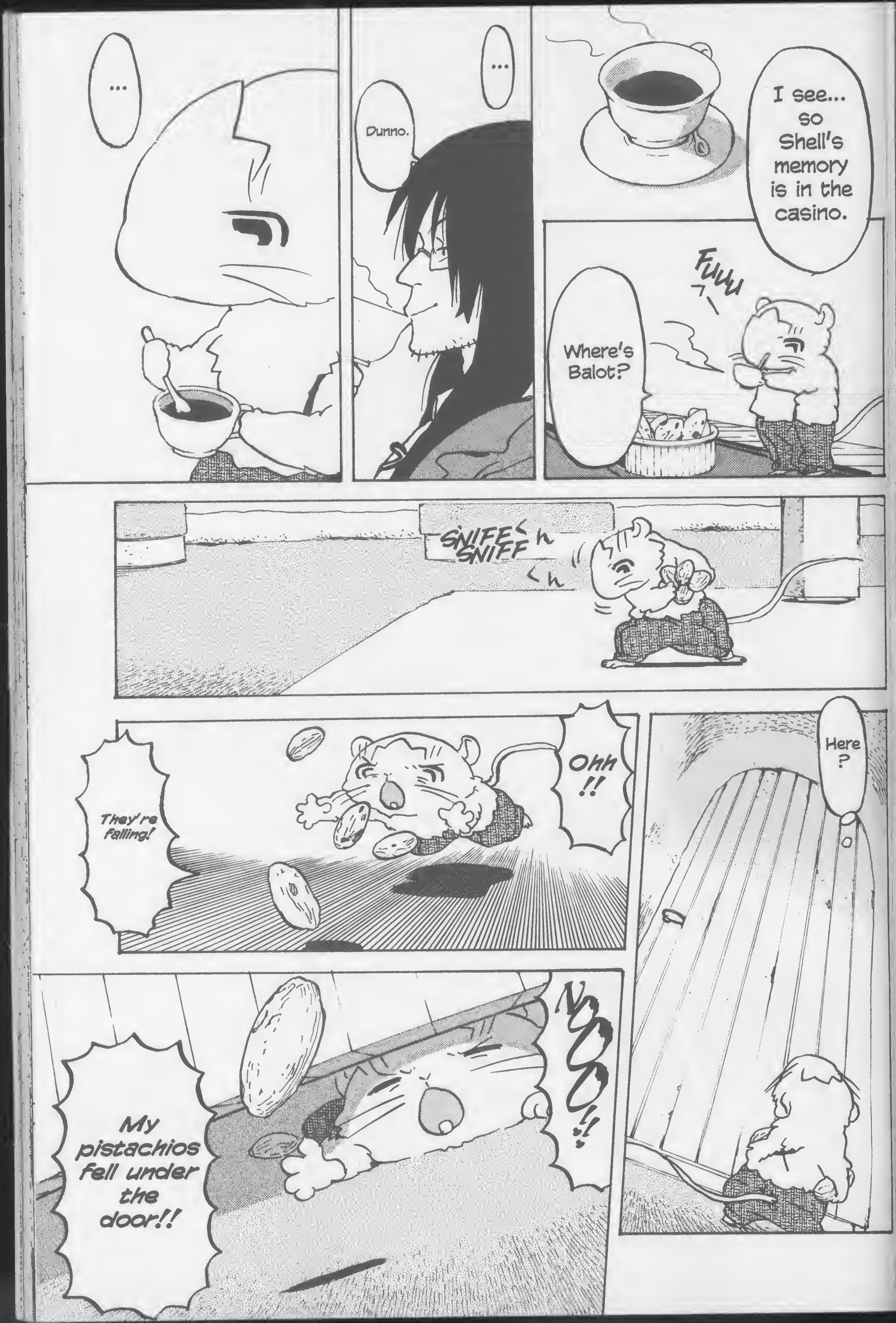

ガ
ガ
ROLL
ROLL
To the surface !!
Now !!
ゴォ
FWOOSH
ド
BAAANG
ド
BAAANG
ド
BAAANG

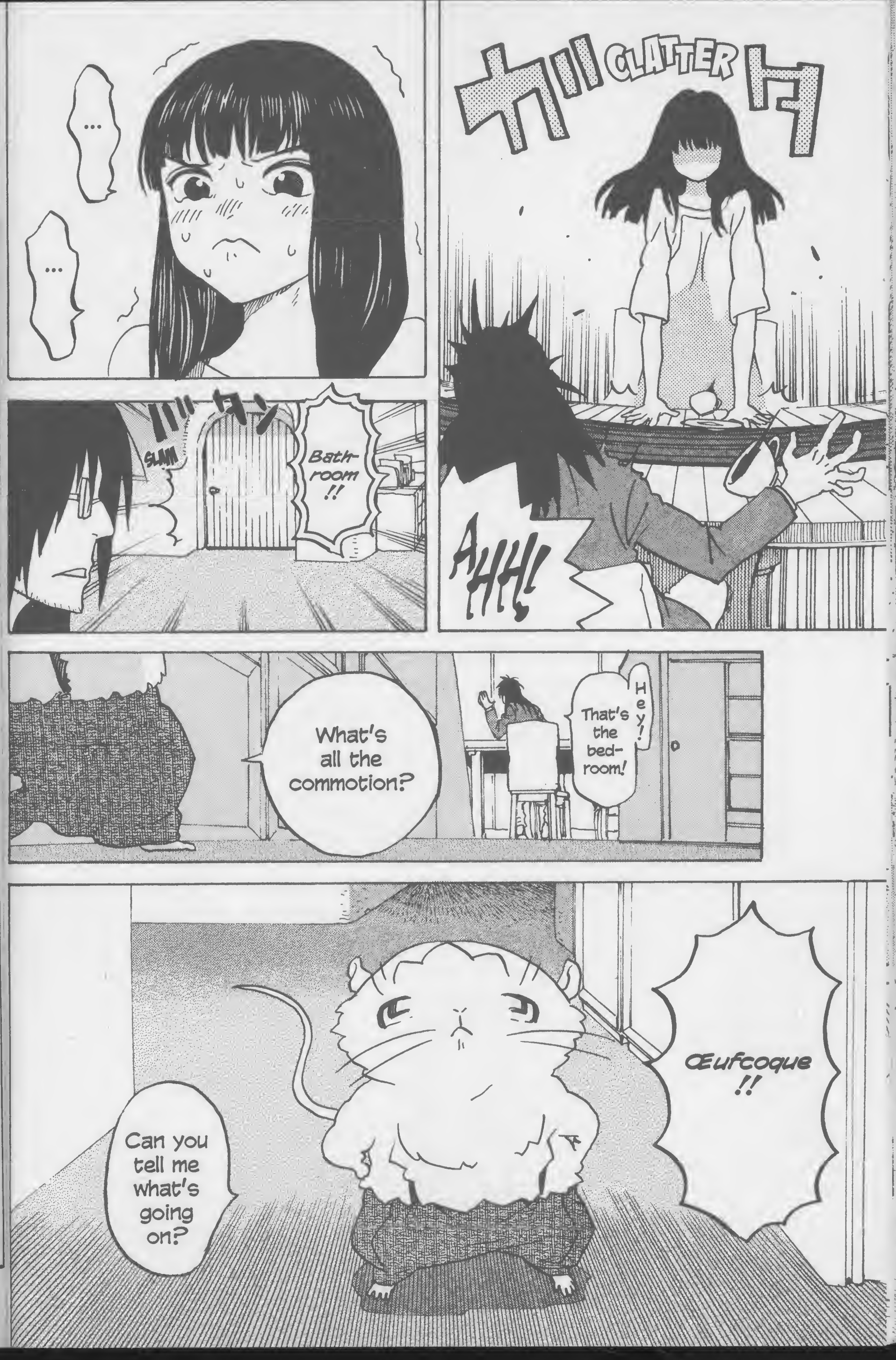

BAAANG
FWOOSH
GAAAR
FWOOSH
GAAAR

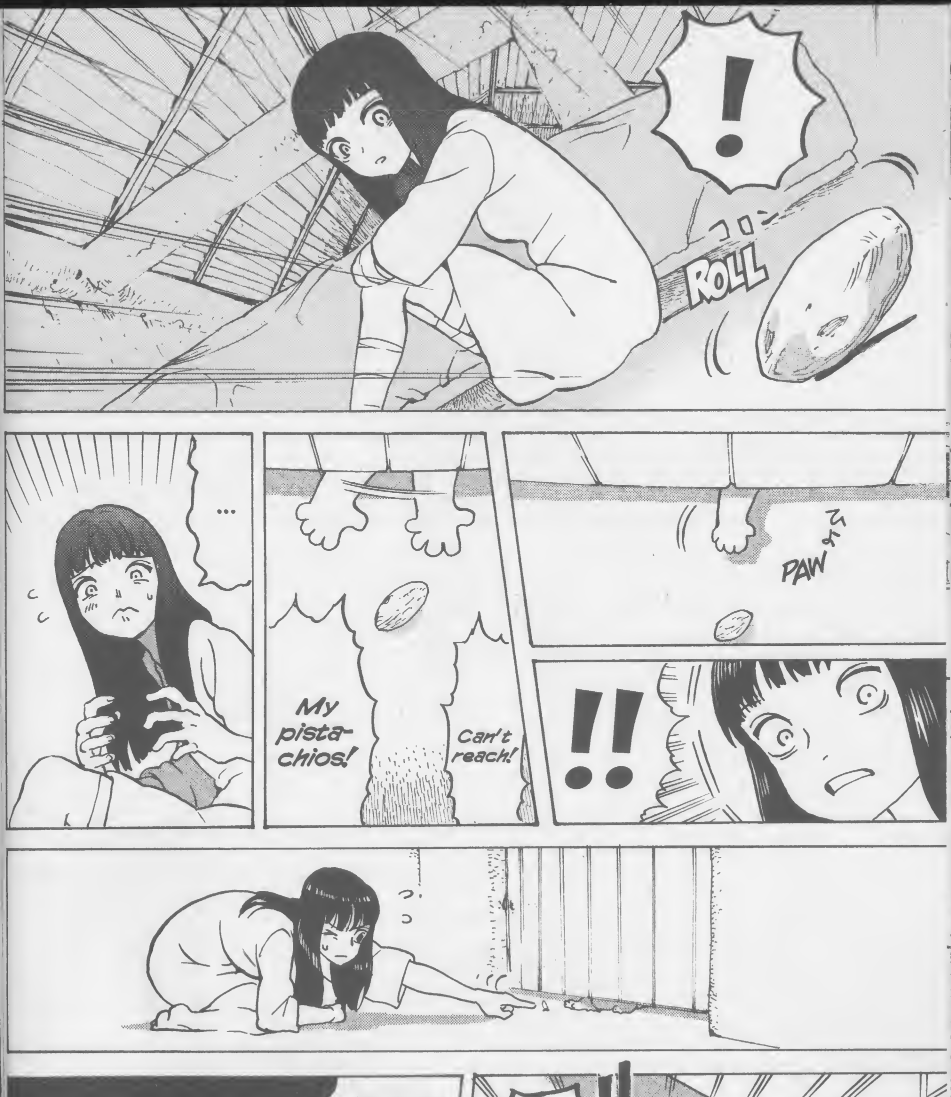

BANG

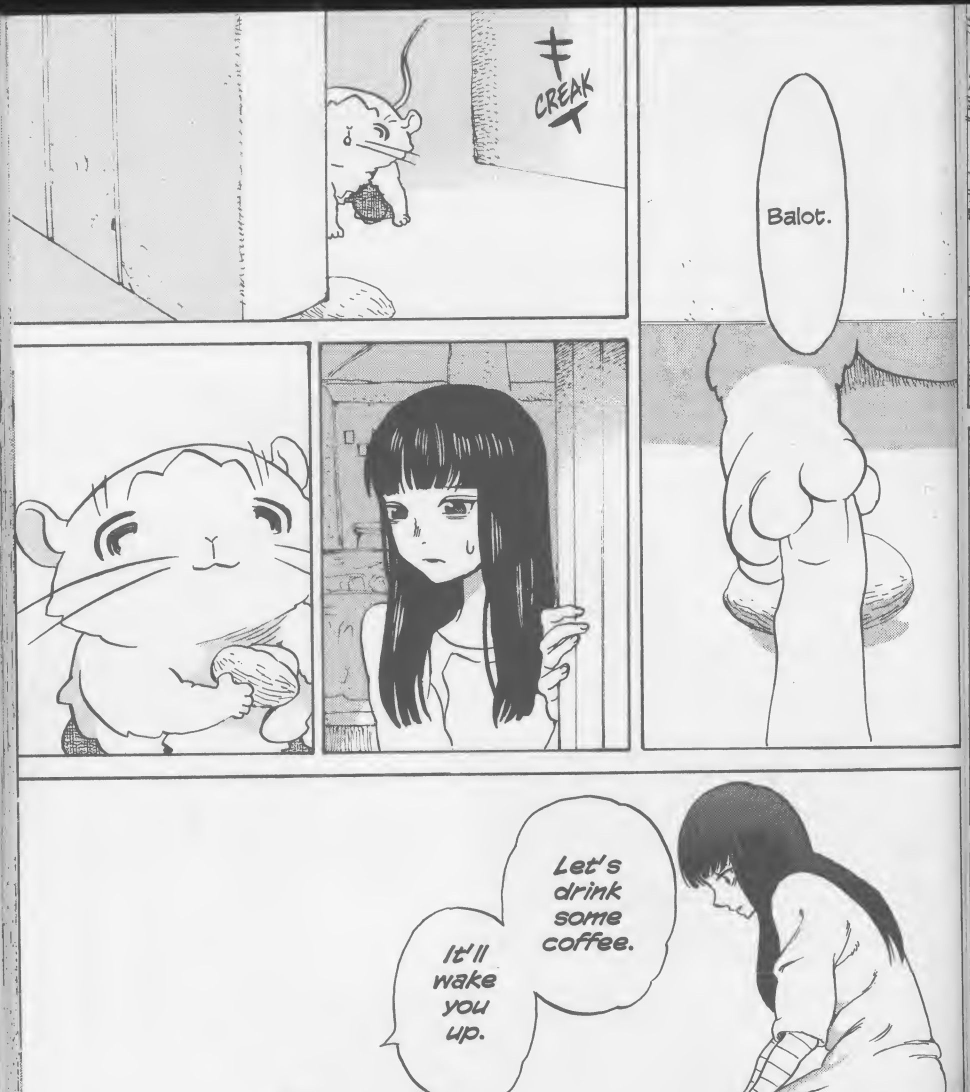

ガチャ
CLIK
milk
Now we can relax a little.
About Boiled...
He used to be in the military.
That's the reason he always tries...
...to solve things with his gun.
It's hard to explain... but you're different from him.
Really?
I wonder...

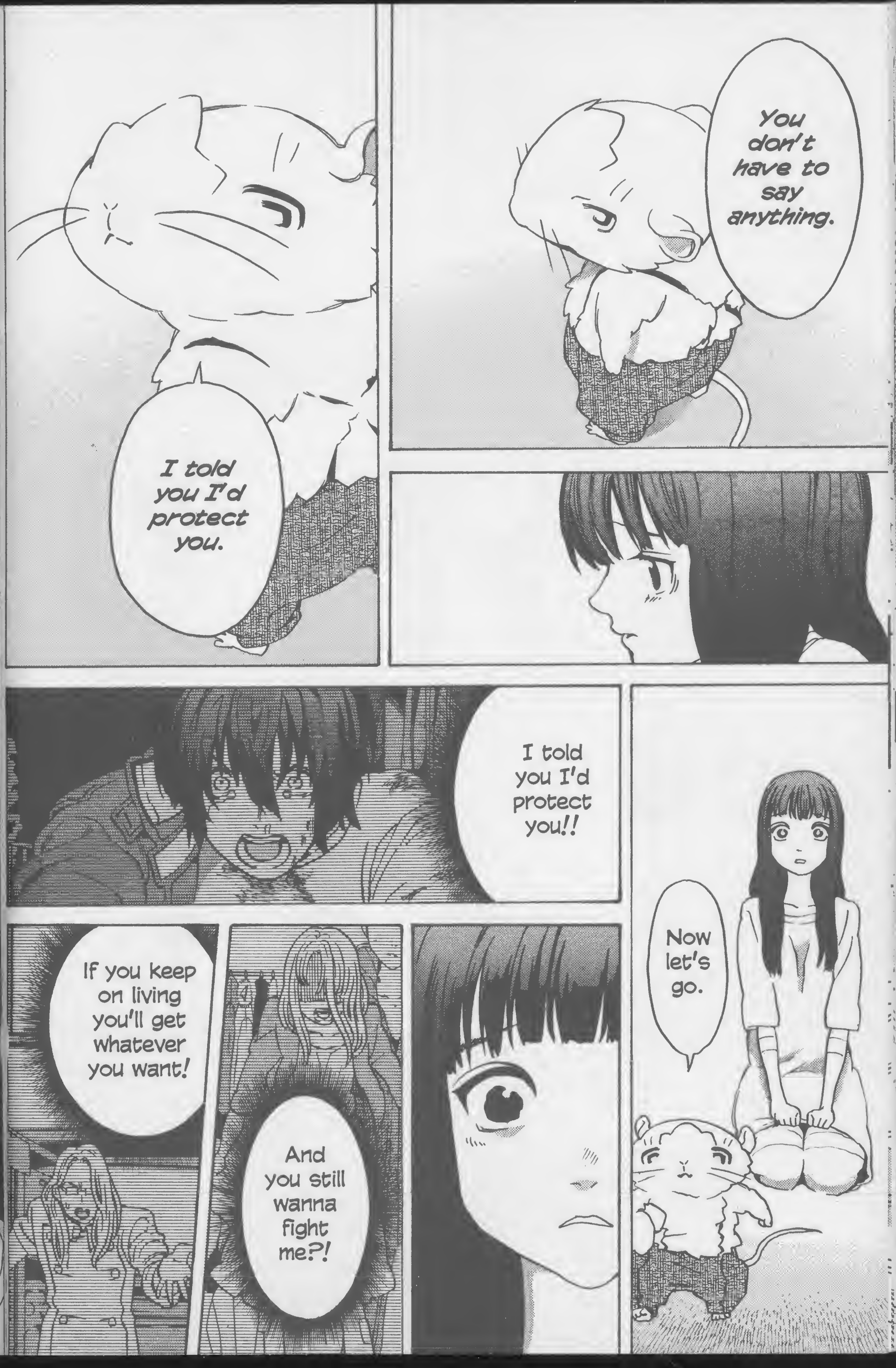

By the way...
How's Œuf-coque?
Great!
We just gotta wait for him to wake up now.
ゴボゴボ
SWISH
ガチャ
CLIK
Anyway, I can't believe Shell's memories are in casino chips.
To hide a treasure inside another treasure...
I guess that's logical, though.
SWAY
Even if you searched the whole world over, you wouldn't find a safer or more legal hiding place than a casino.
STAGGER

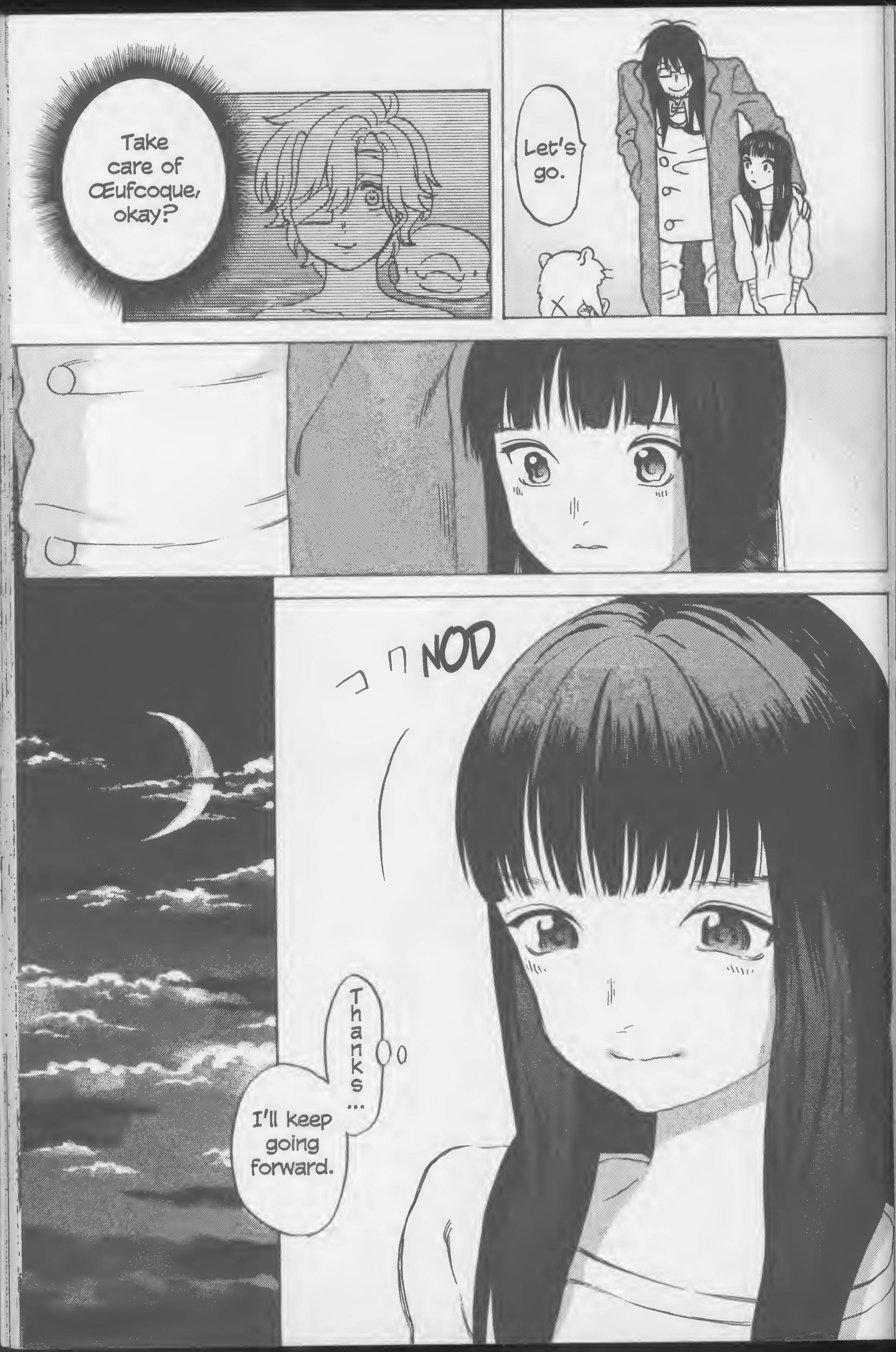

...
...
Dunno.
I see... so Shell's memory is in the casino.
FUUU
Where's Balot?
SNIFF SNIFF
They're falling!
Ohh!!
Here?
My pistachios fell under the door!!
NOOO!!

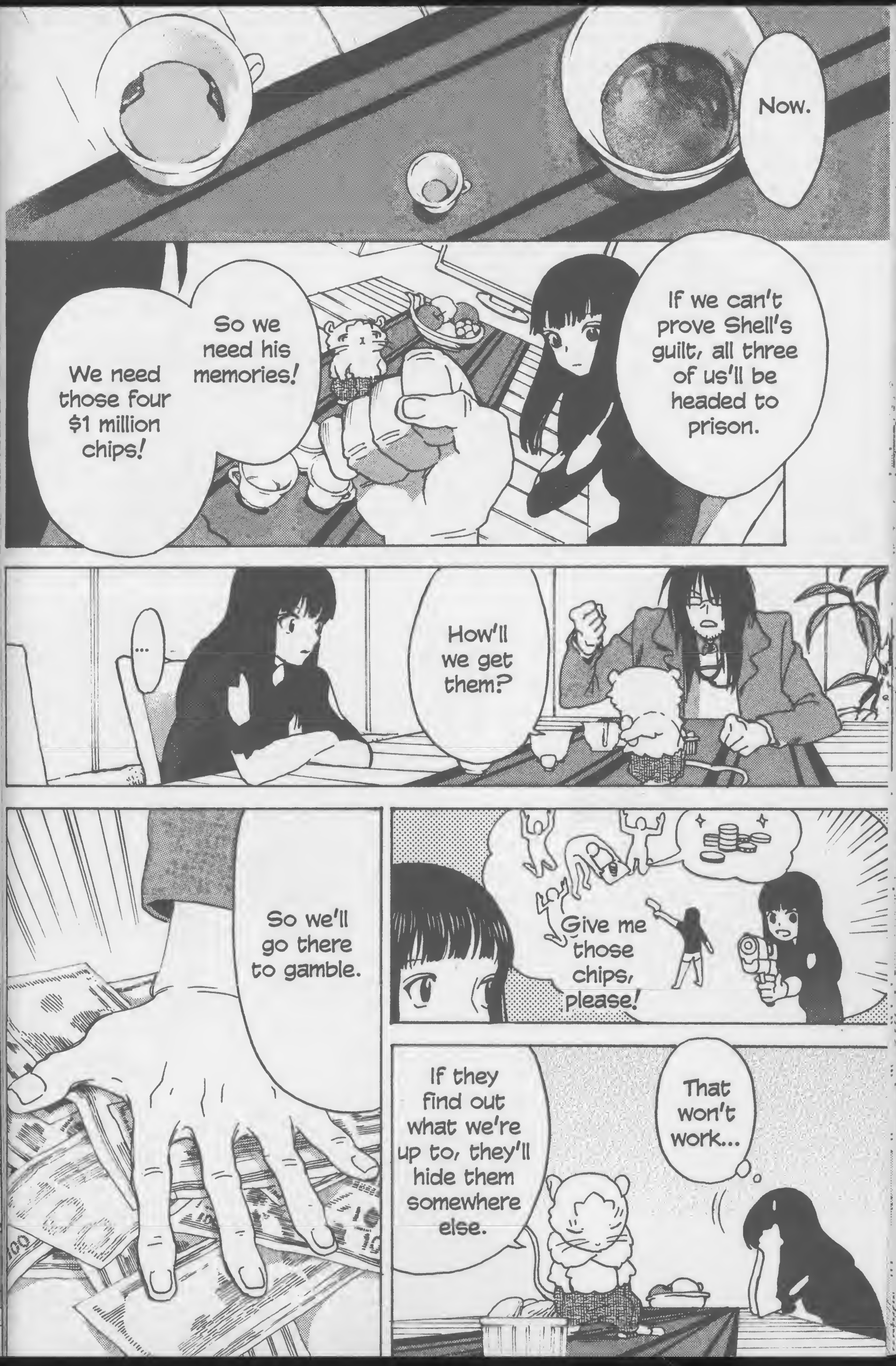

...
...
SLAM
Bathroom!!
CLATTER
AHH!!
What's all the commotion?
Hey! That's the bedroom!
Œufcoque!!
Can you tell me what's going on?

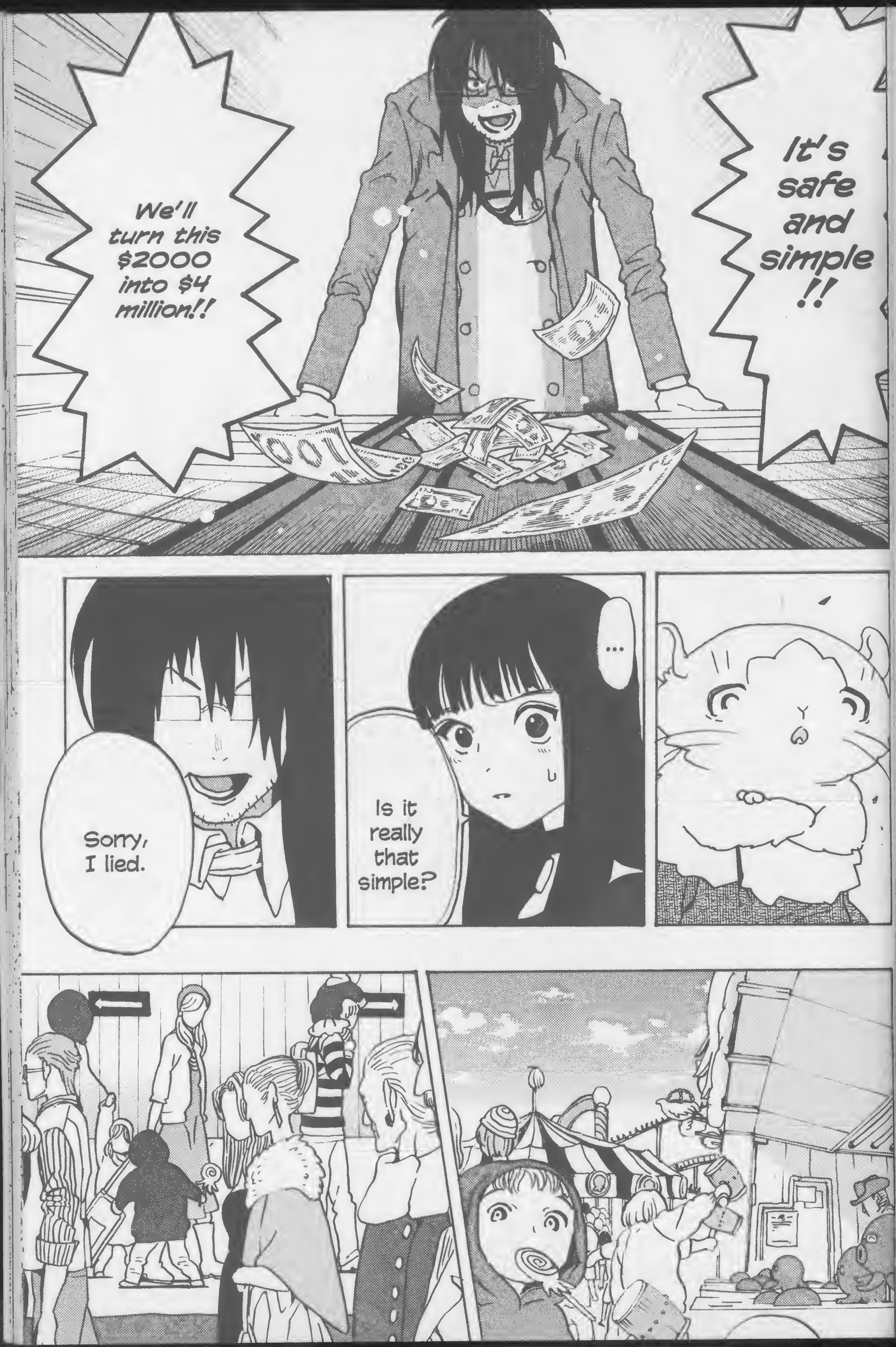

!
ROLL
PAW
Can't reach!
My pistachios!
...
!!
GRAB
!!
!!!

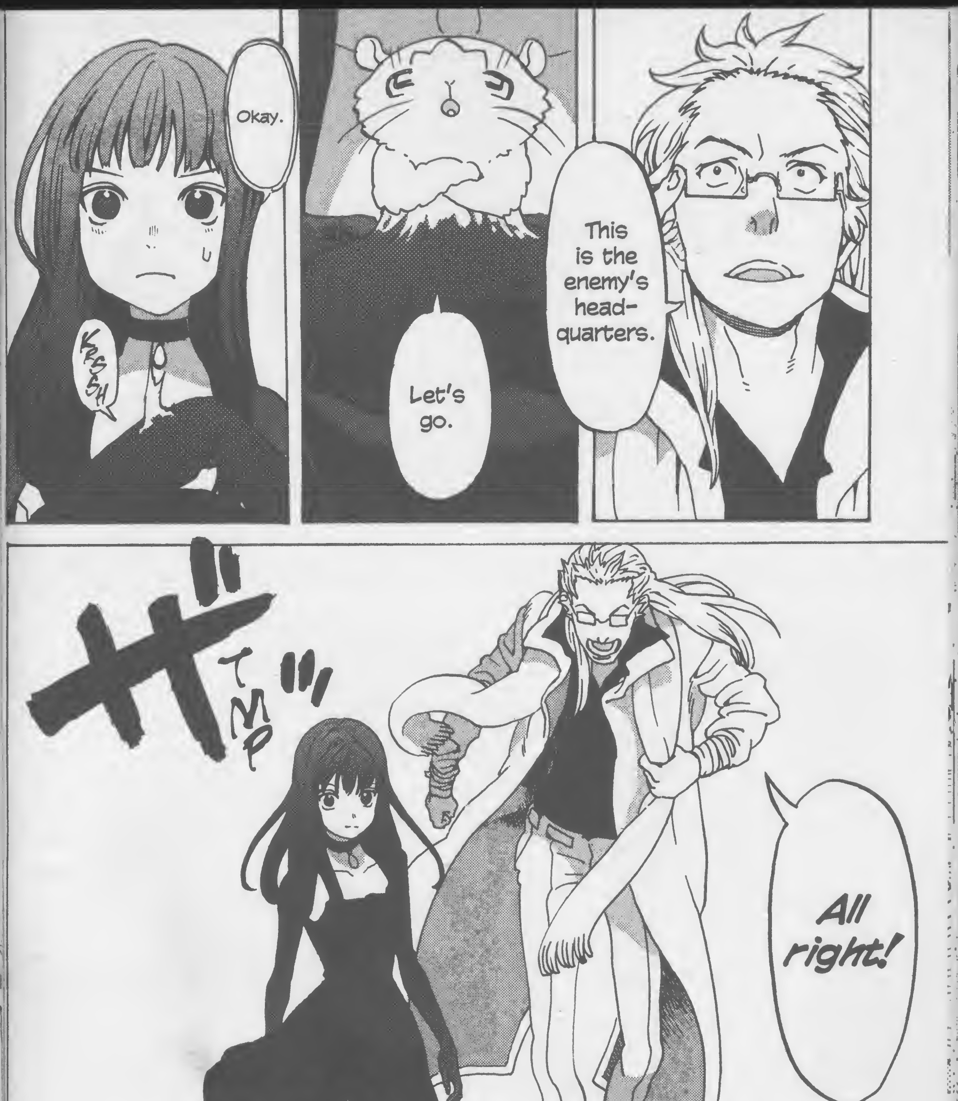

Balot.
CREAK
Let's drink some coffee.
It'll wake you up.
...
"Um, I..."

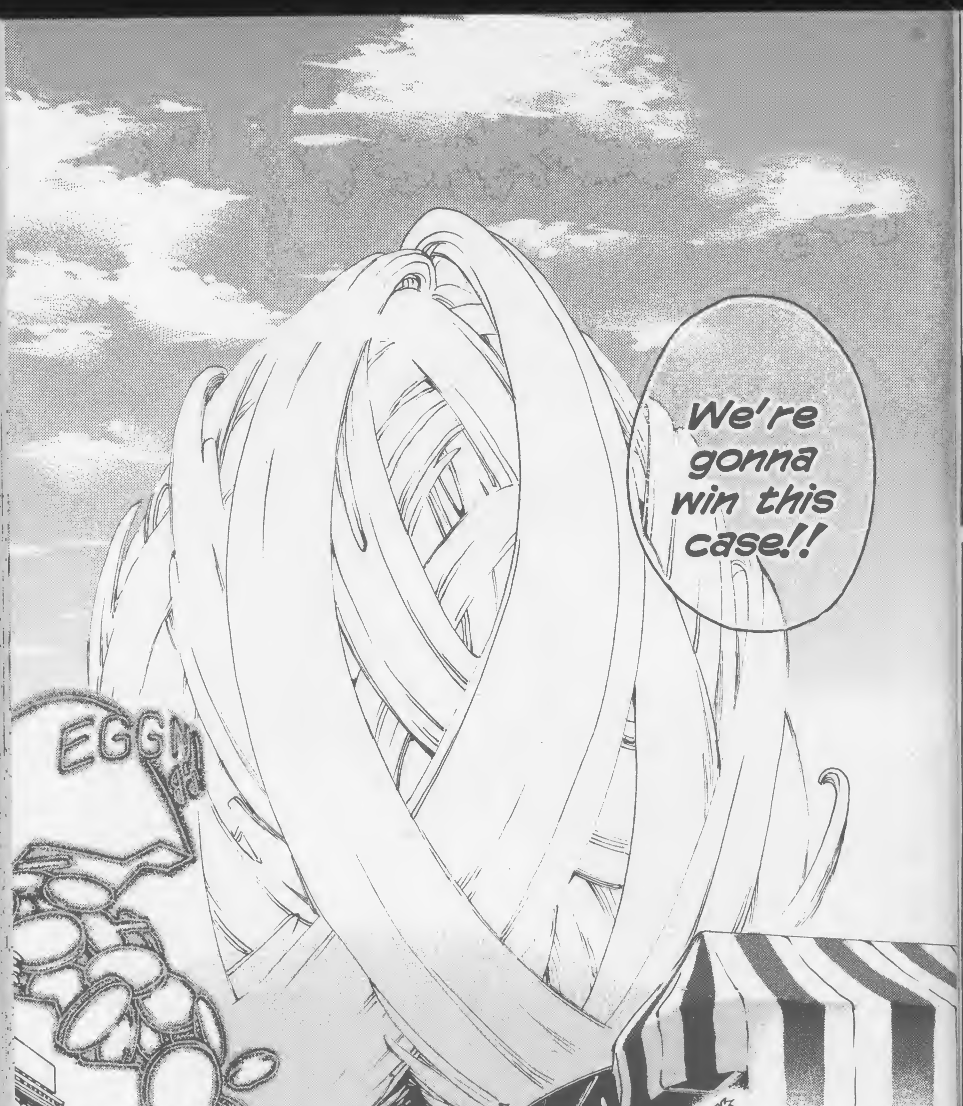

You don't have to say anything.
I told you I'd protect you.
Now let's go.
I told you I'd protect you!!
And you still wanna fight me?!
If you keep on living you'll get whatever you want!


Let's go.
Take care of Œufcoque, okay?
NOD
Thanks...
I'll keep going forward.


Now.
If we can't prove Shell's guilt, all three of us'll be headed to prison.
So we need his memories!
We need those four $1 million chips!
How'll we get them?
...
Give me those chips, please!
That won't work...
If they find out what we're up to, they'll hide them somewhere else.
So we'll go there to gamble.

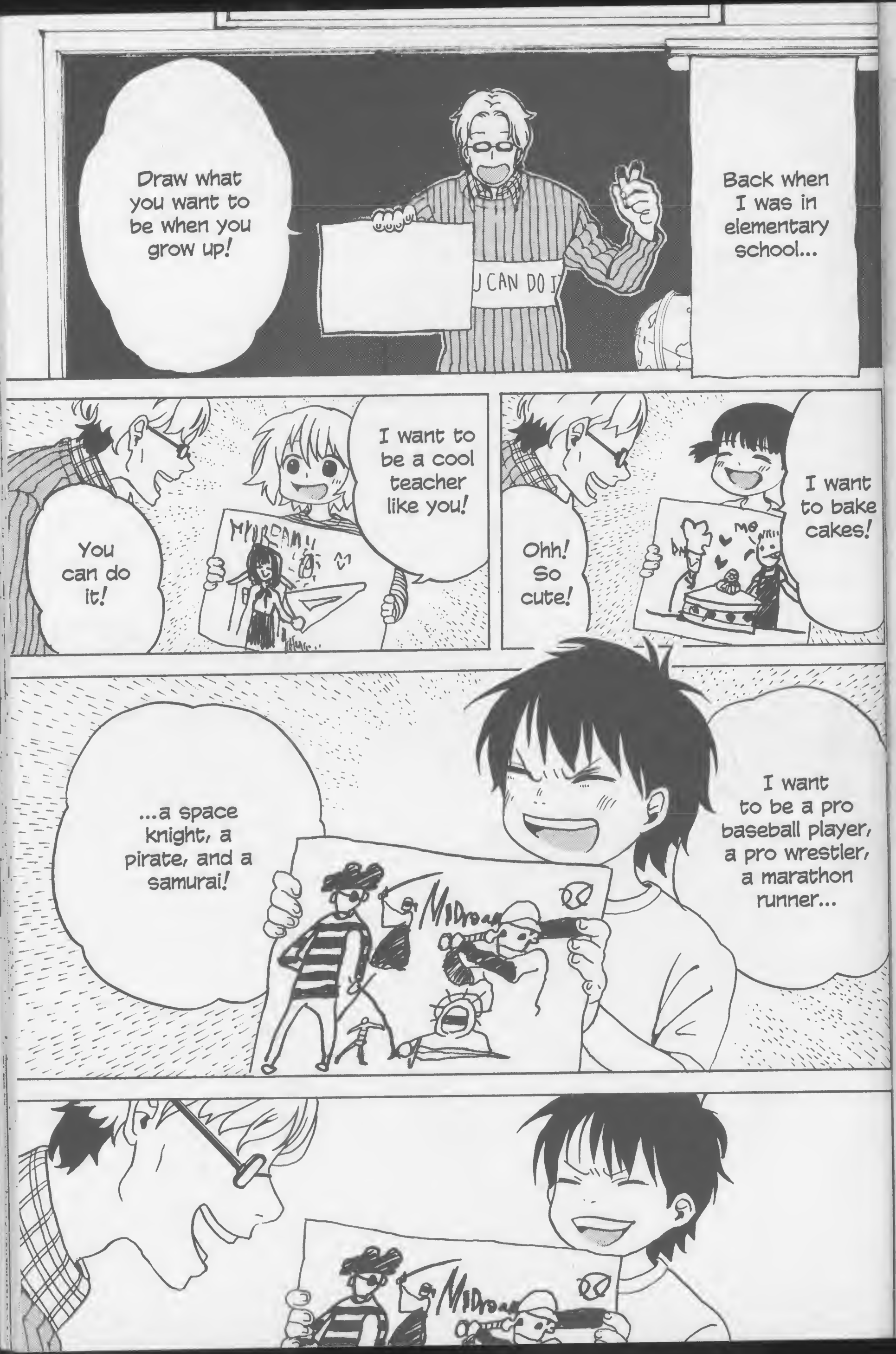

It's safe and simple!!
We'll turn this $2000 into $4 million!!
...
Is it really that simple?
Sorry, I lied.

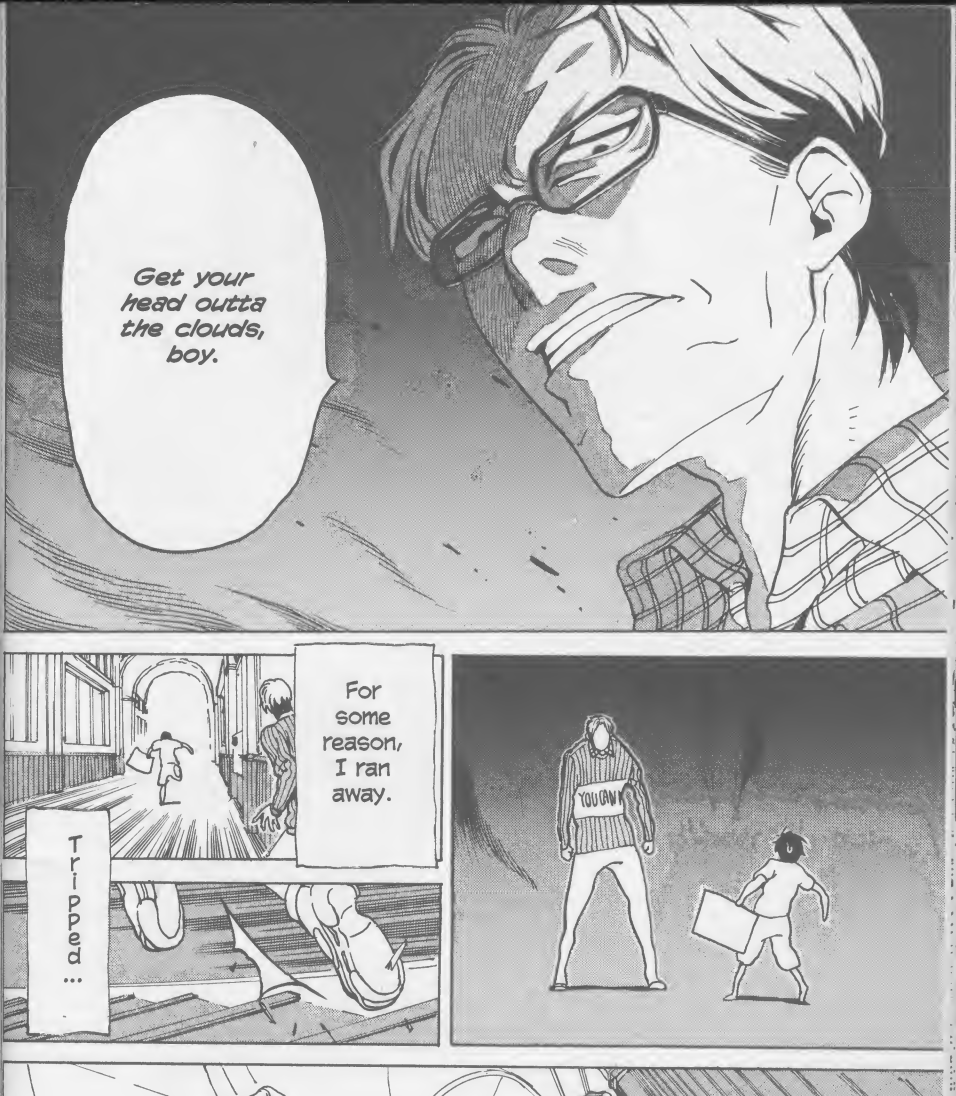

This is the enemy's head-quarters.
Let's go.
Okay.
KRSSH
ザッ
TMP
All right!

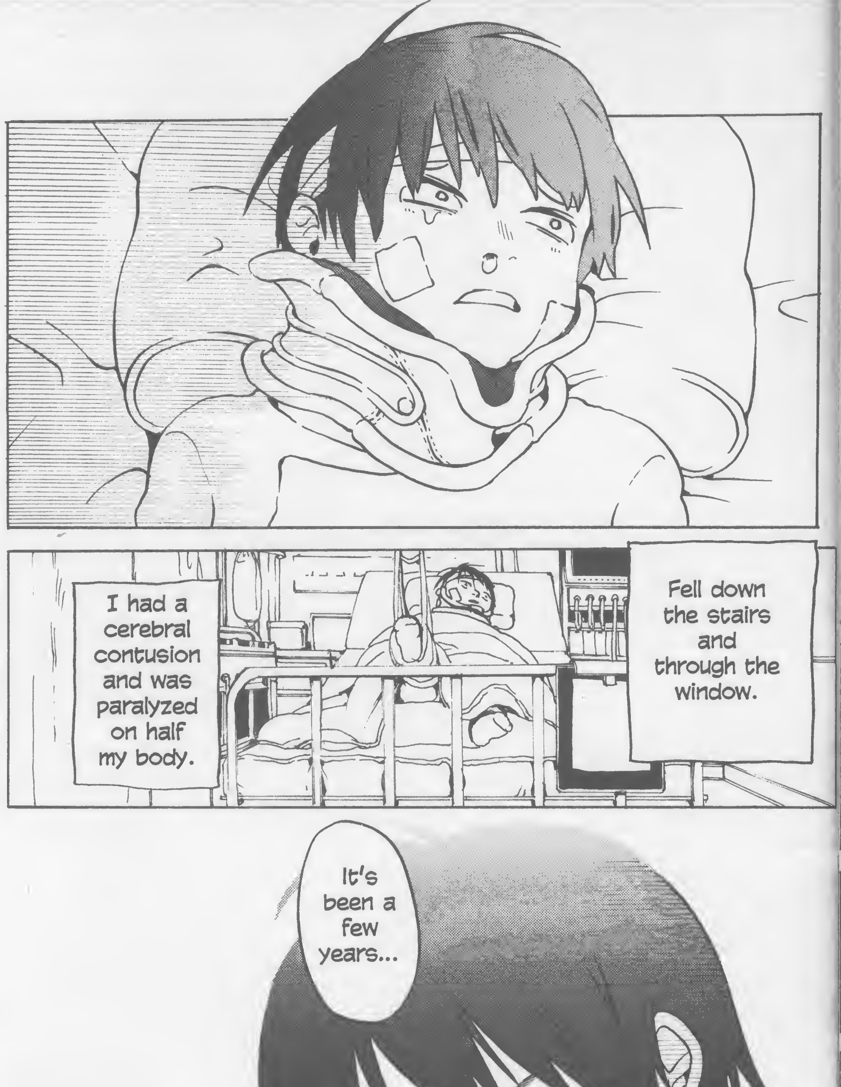

We're gonna win this case!!
EGG
To be continued...

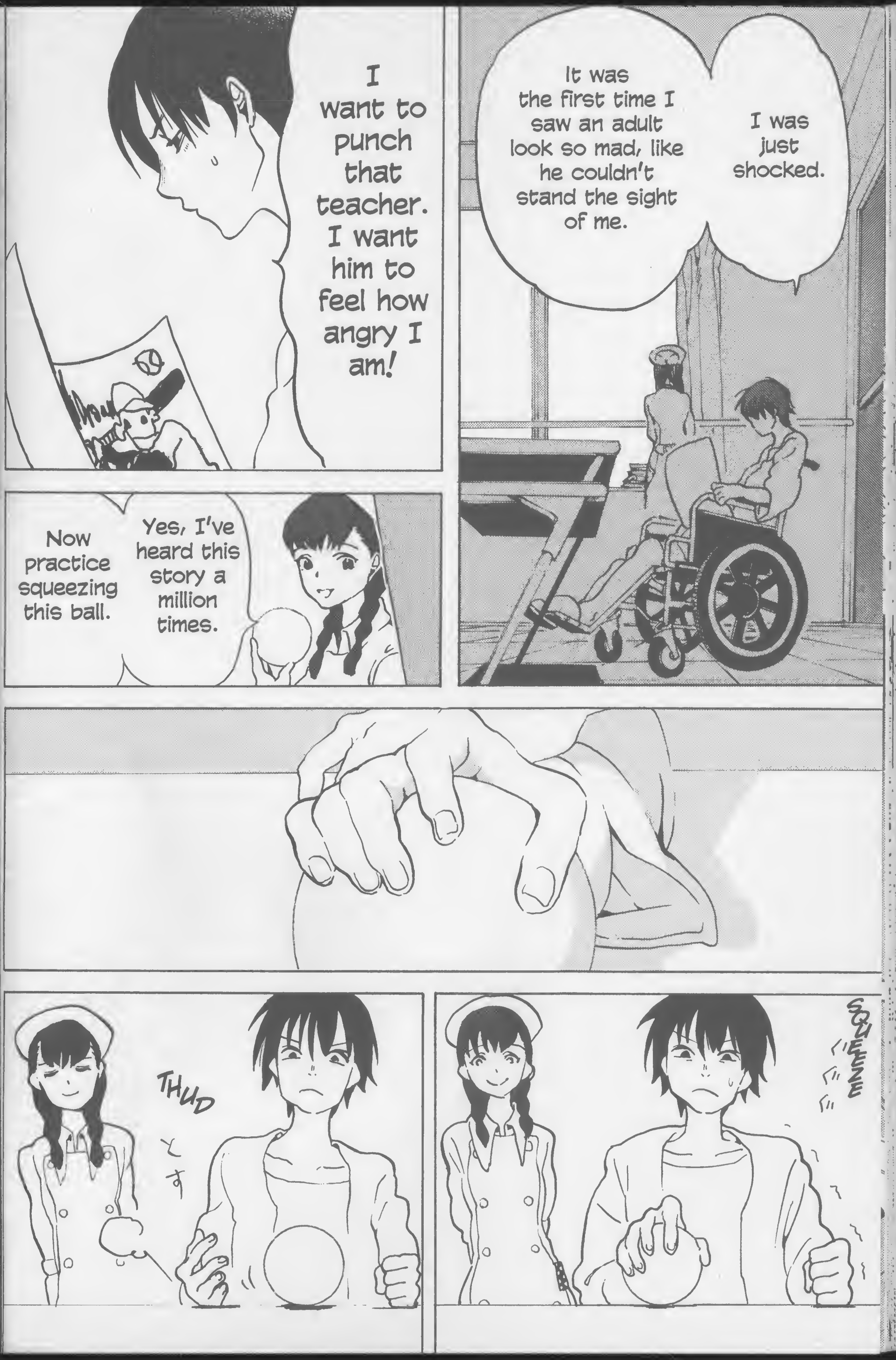
MARDOCK
SCRAMBLE

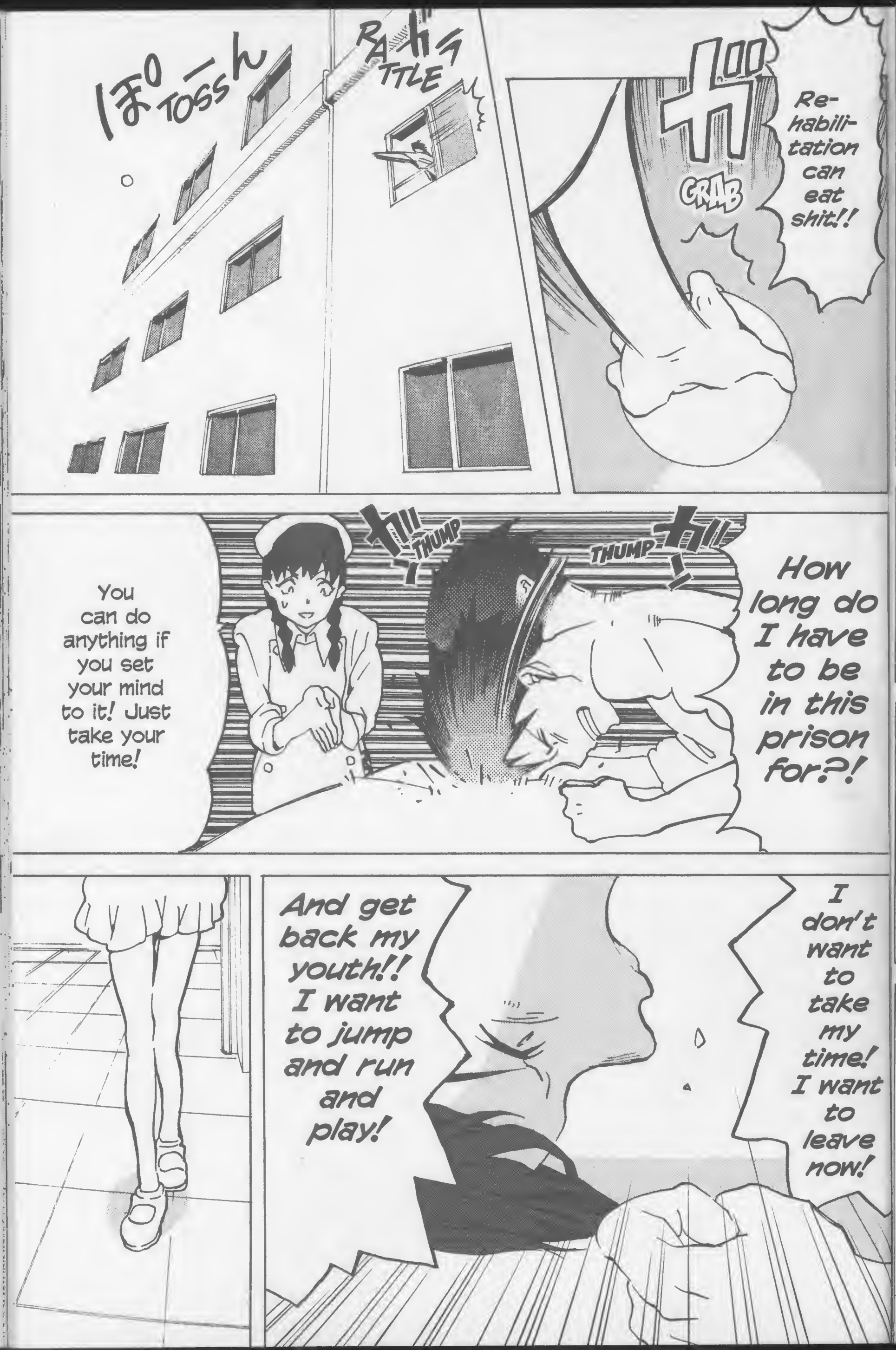
Extra Chapter

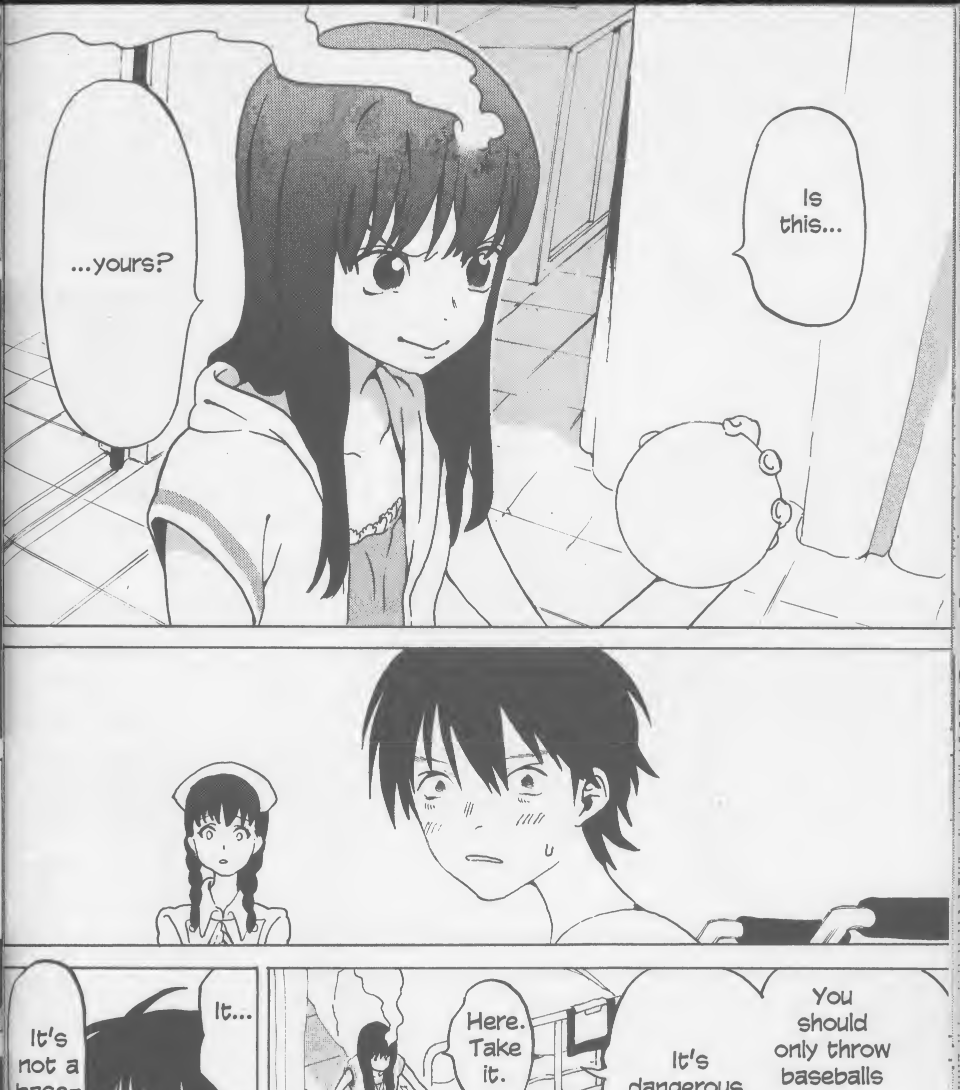

Back when I was in elementary school...
Draw what you want to be when you grow up!
U CAN DO I
I want to bake cakes!
ME
Ohh! So cute!
I want to be a cool teacher like you!
MY DREAM!!
You can do it!
I want to be a pro baseball player, a pro wrestler, a marathon runner...
...a space knight, a pirate, and a samurai!
MiDream

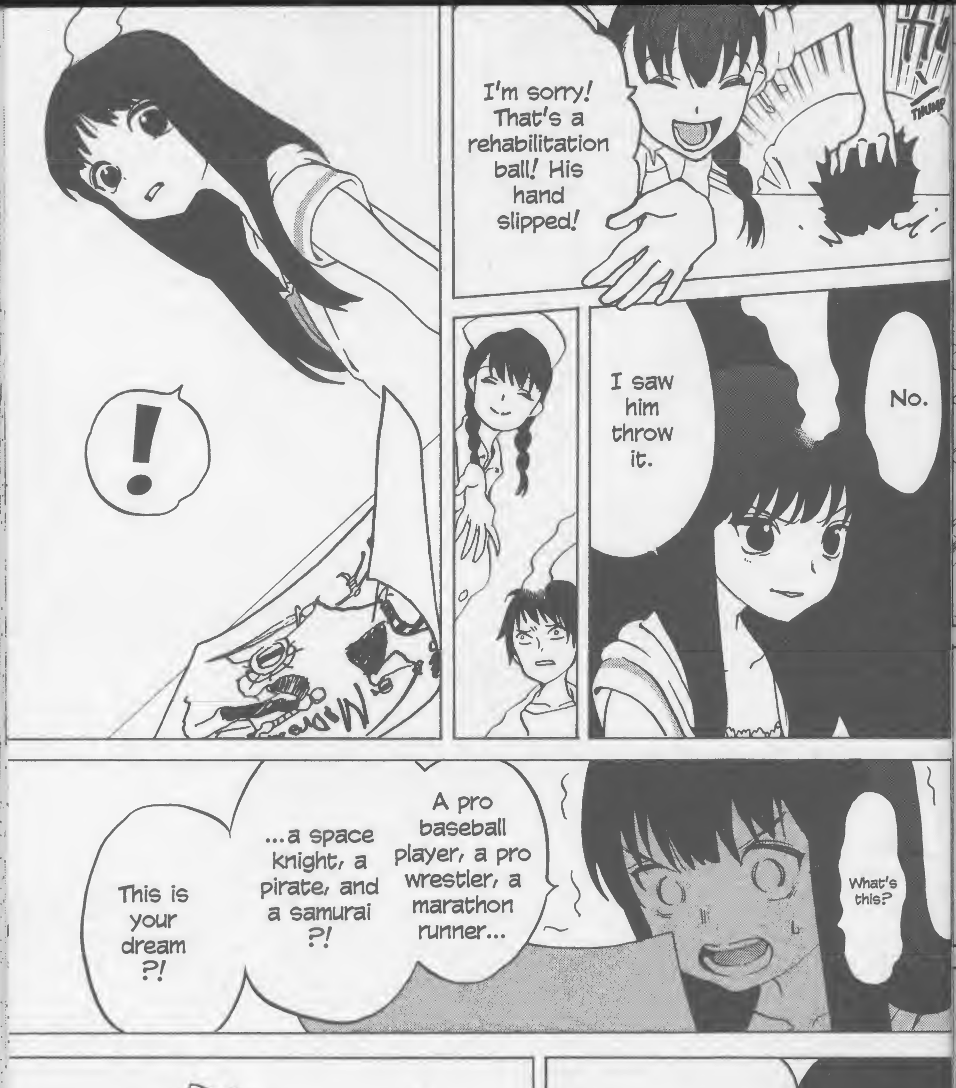

Get your head outta the clouds, boy.
For some reason, I ran away.
YOU CAN
Tripped...

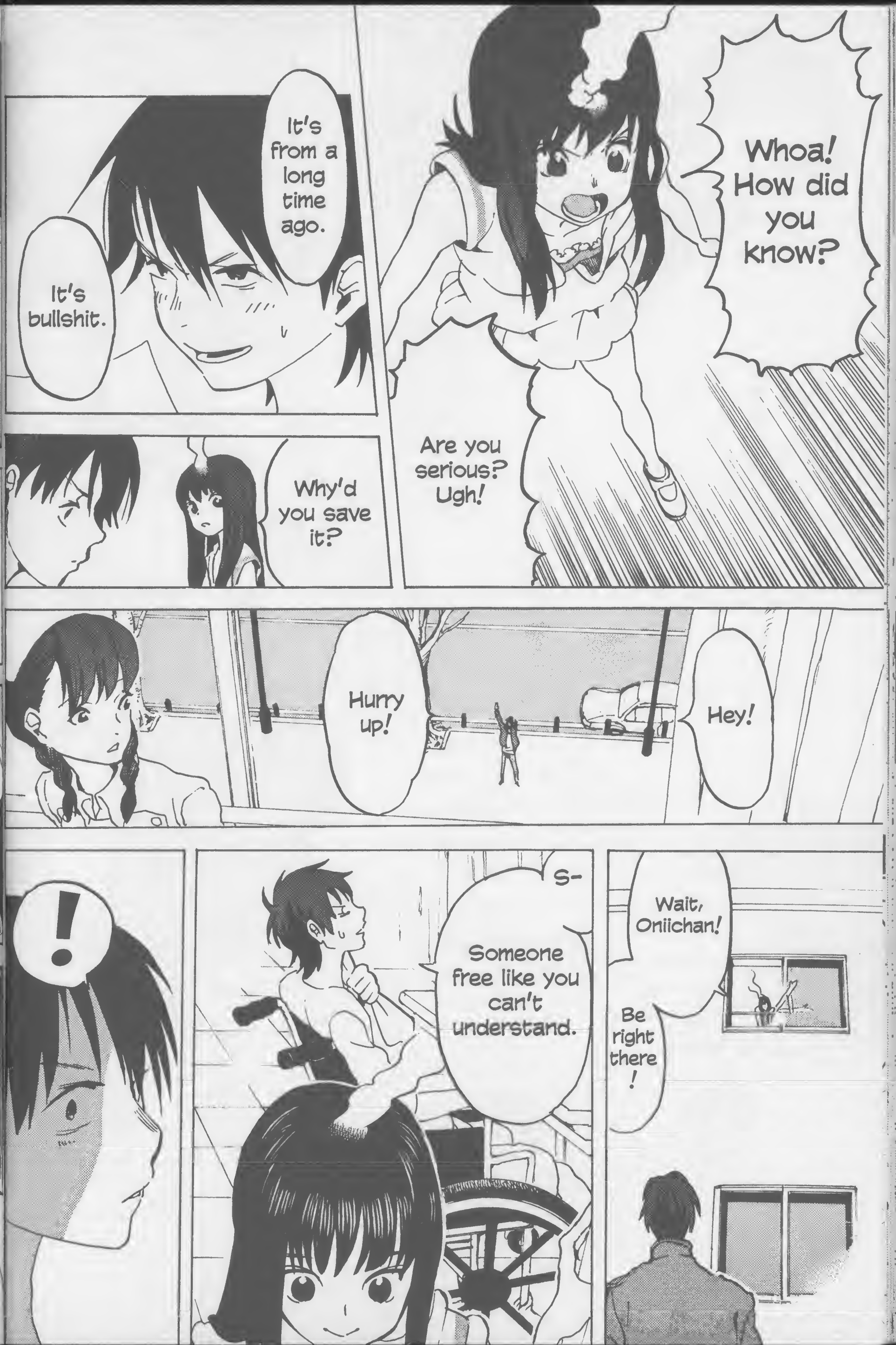

Fell down the stairs and through the window.
I had a cerebral contusion and was paralyzed on half my body.
It's been a few years...
But it still won't be cured.

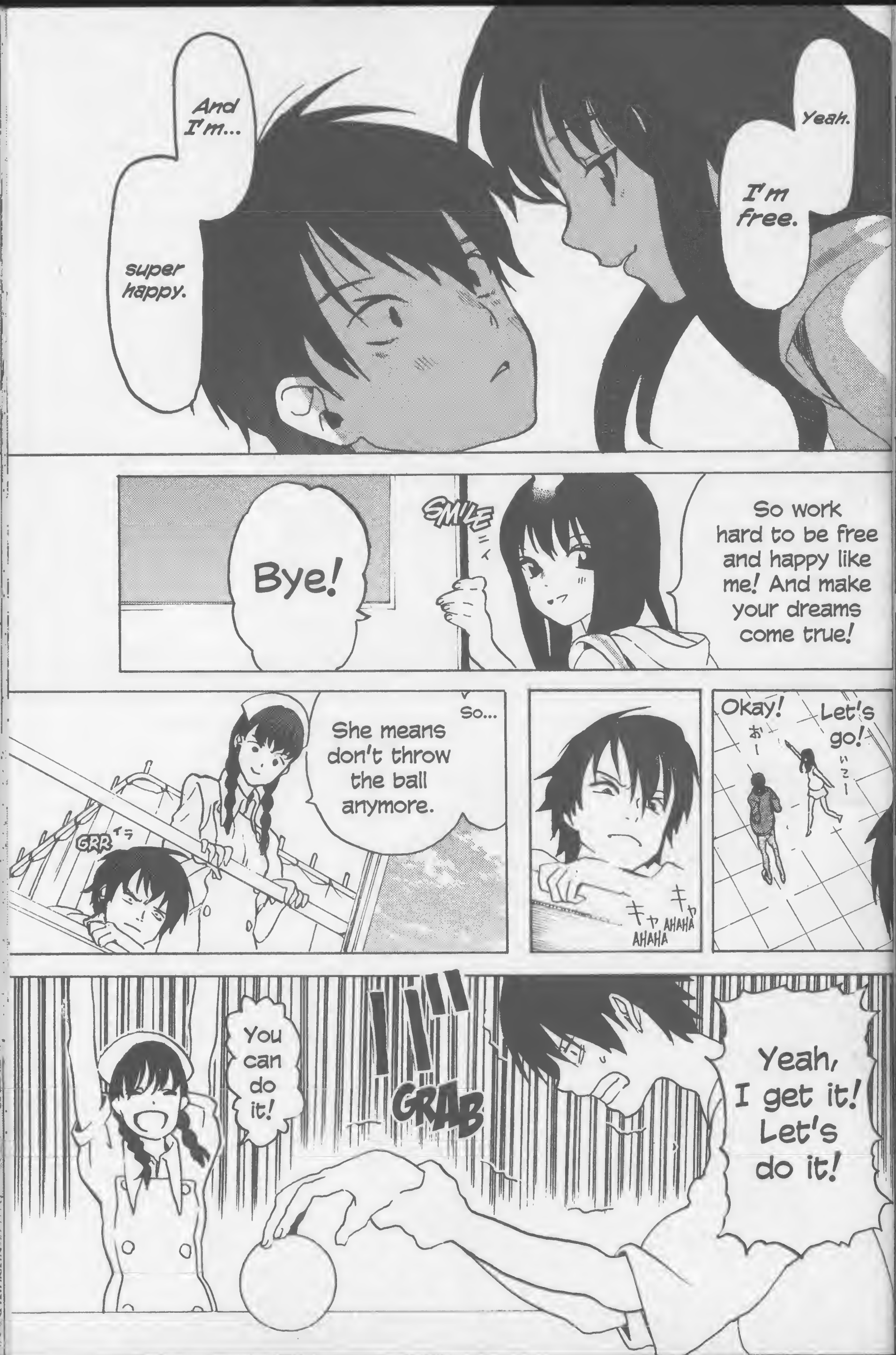

I was just shocked.
It was the first time I saw an adult look so mad, like he couldn't stand the sight of me.
I want to punch that teacher. I want him to feel how angry I am!
Yes, I've heard this story a million times.
Now practice squeezing this ball.
SQUEEZE
THUD とす

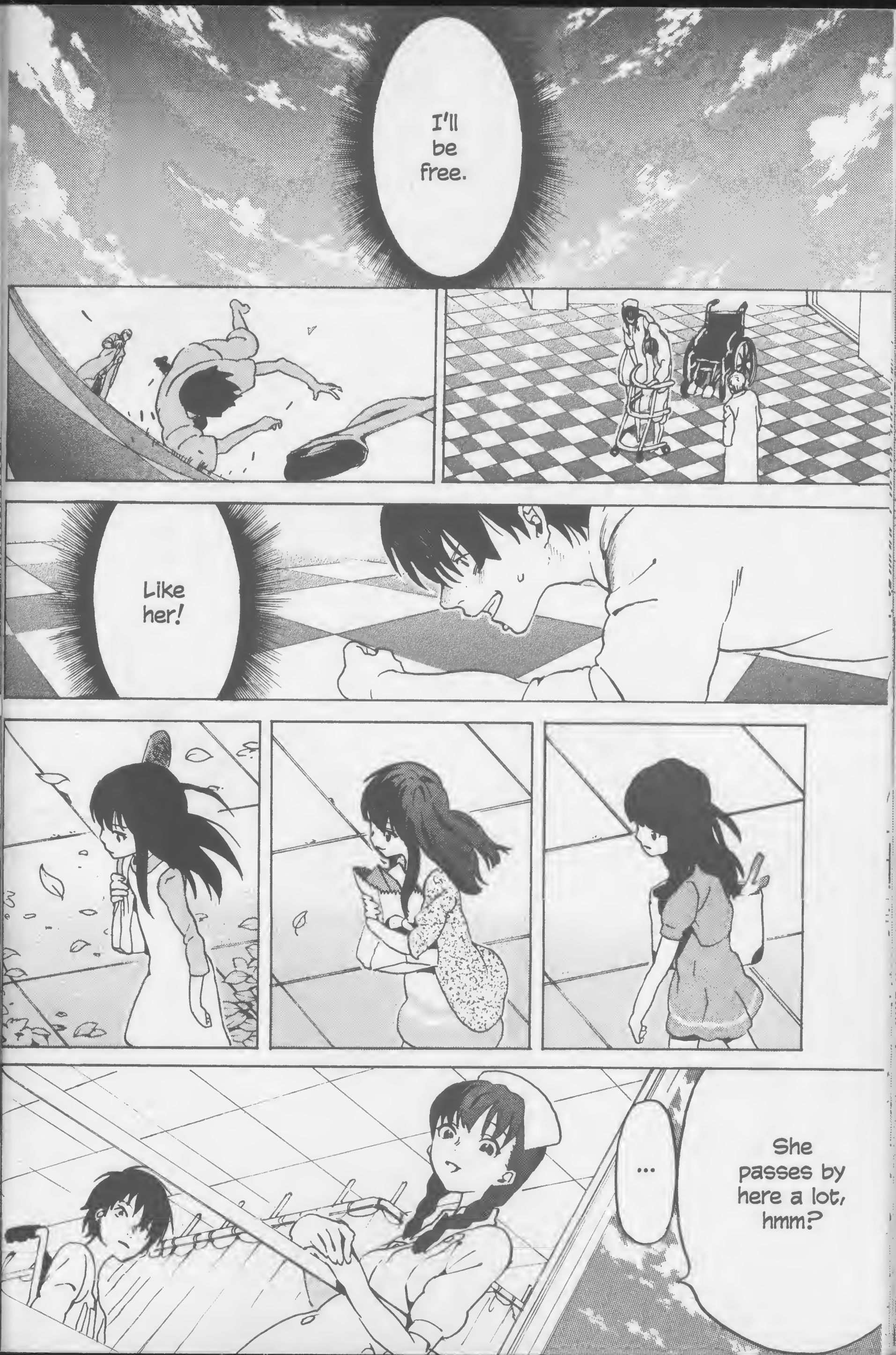

ガッ GRAB
Re-habilitation can eat shit!!
ガラ RATTLE
ぽーん TOSS
How long do I have to be in this prison for?!
ガッ THUMP
ガッ THUMP
You can do anything if you set your mind to it! Just take your time!
I don't want to take my time! I want to leave now!
And get back my youth!! I want to jump and run and play!

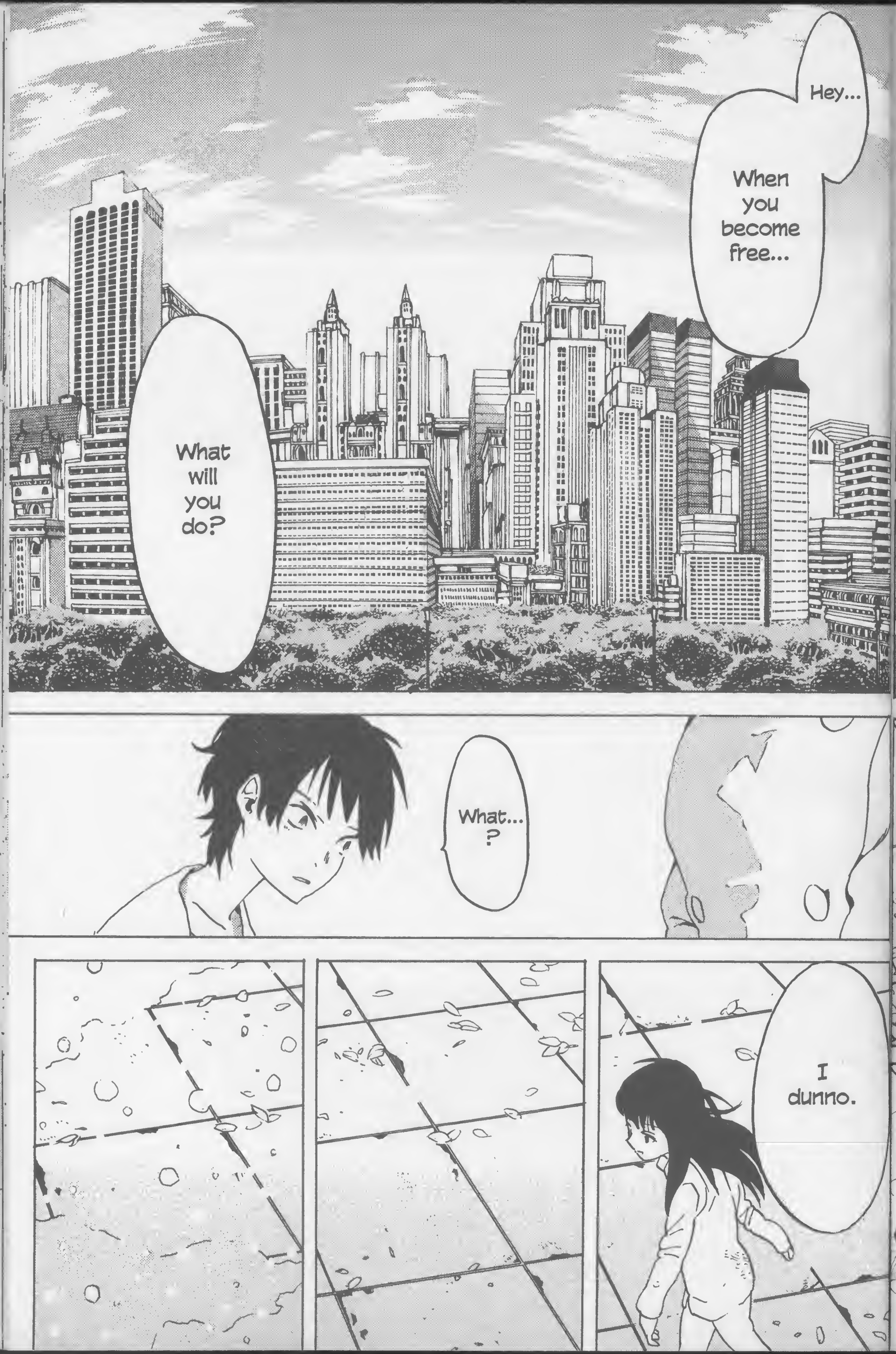

Is this...
...yours?
You should only throw baseballs on a baseball field.
It's dangerous.
Here. Take it.
It...
It's not a baseball.

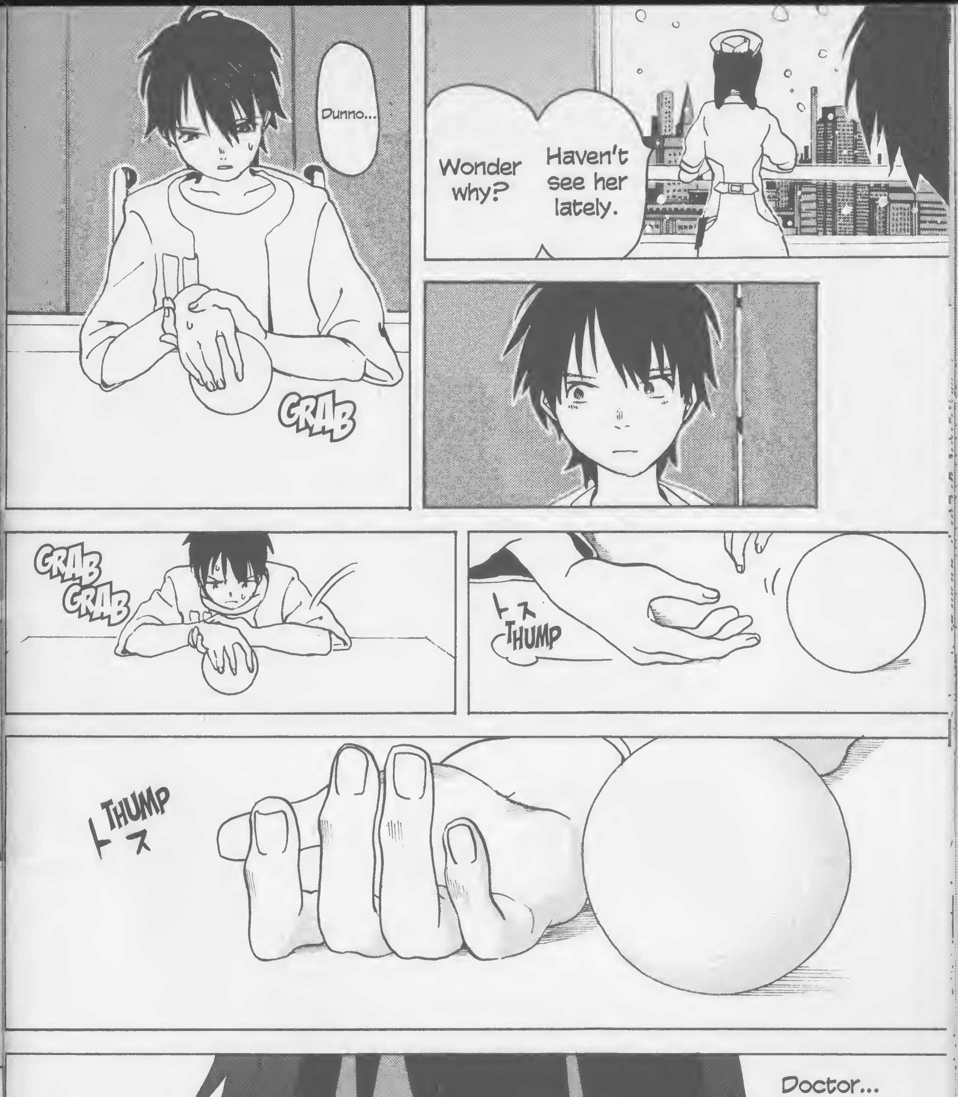

I'm sorry! That's a rehabilitation ball! His hand slipped!
THUMP
!
No.
I saw him throw it.
What's this?
A pro baseball player, a pro wrestler, a marathon runner...
...a space knight, a pirate, and a samurai ?!
This is your dream ?!
"You're not a kid, why do you want to be this? What's the point?"
That's what you think, right?
GRAB
ぱっ

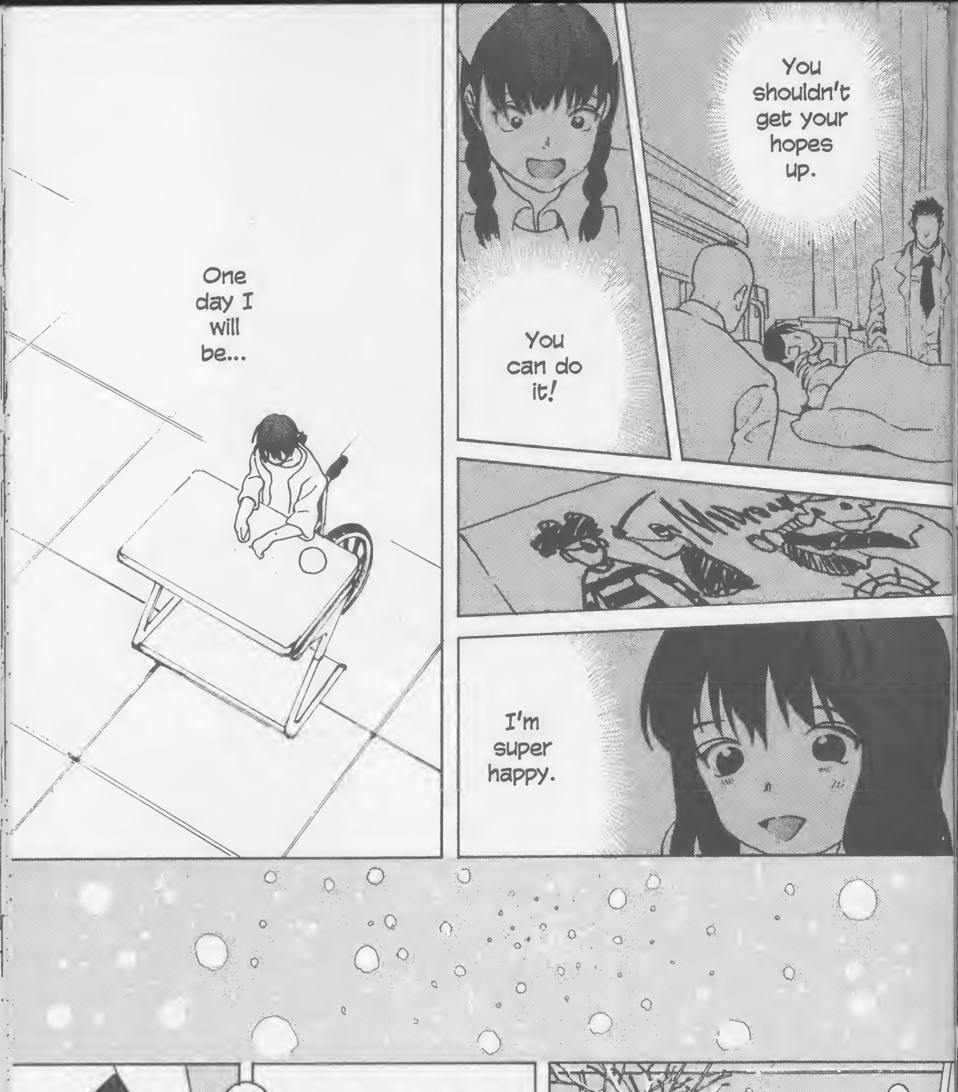

Whoa! How did you know?
It's from a long time ago.
It's bullshit.
Are you serious? Ugh!
Why'd you save it?
Hey!
Hurry up!
Wait, Oniichan!
Be right there!
S-
Someone free like you can't understand.
!

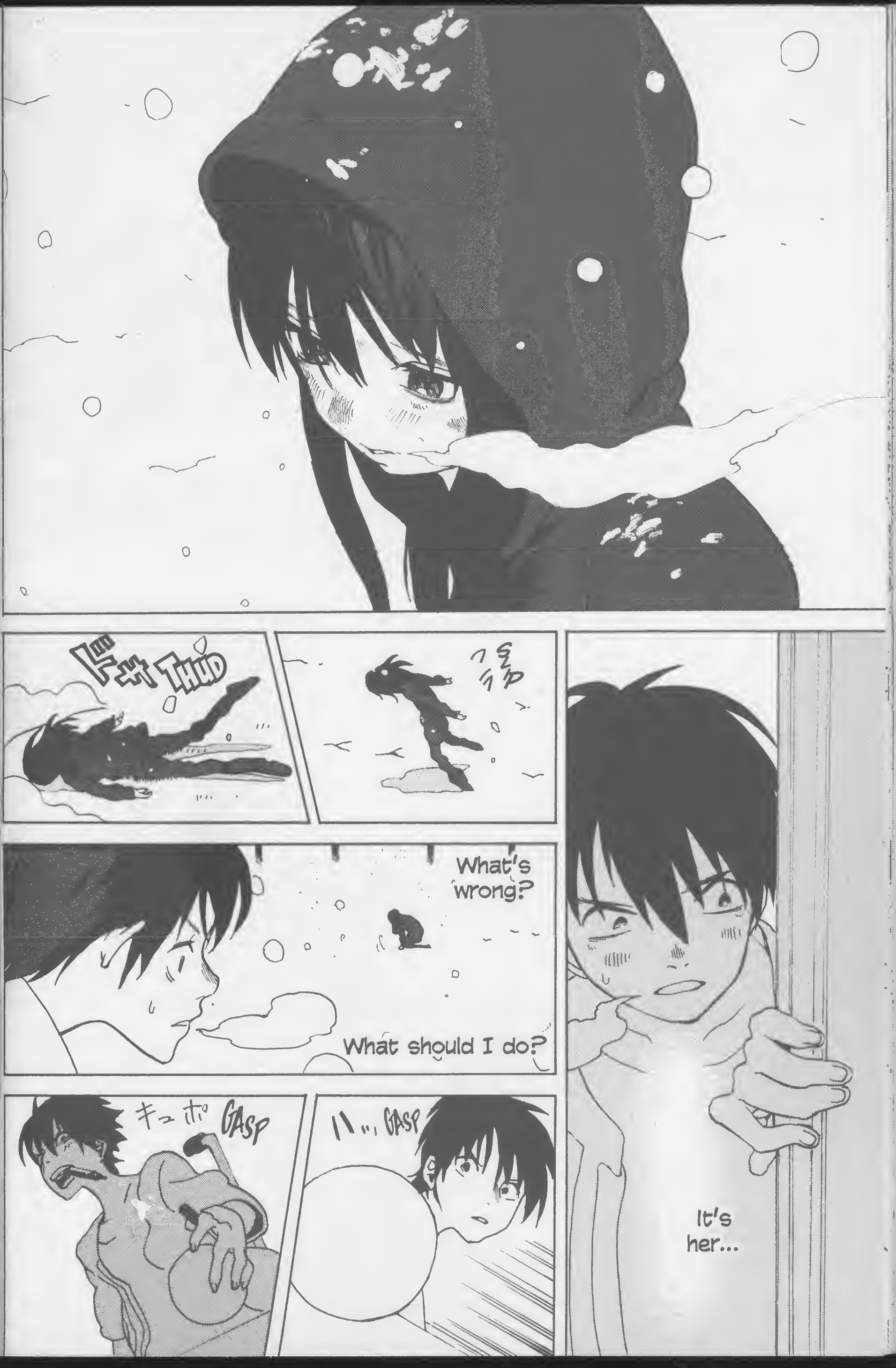

Yeah.
I'm free.
And I'm...
super happy.
So work hard to be free and happy like me! And make your dreams come true!
SMILE ニィ
Bye!
Okay! おー
Let's go! いこー
キャ キャ
AHAHA AHAHA AHAHA
So...
She means don't throw the ball anymore.
GRR イラ
Yeah, I get it! Let's do it!
GRAB
You can do it!

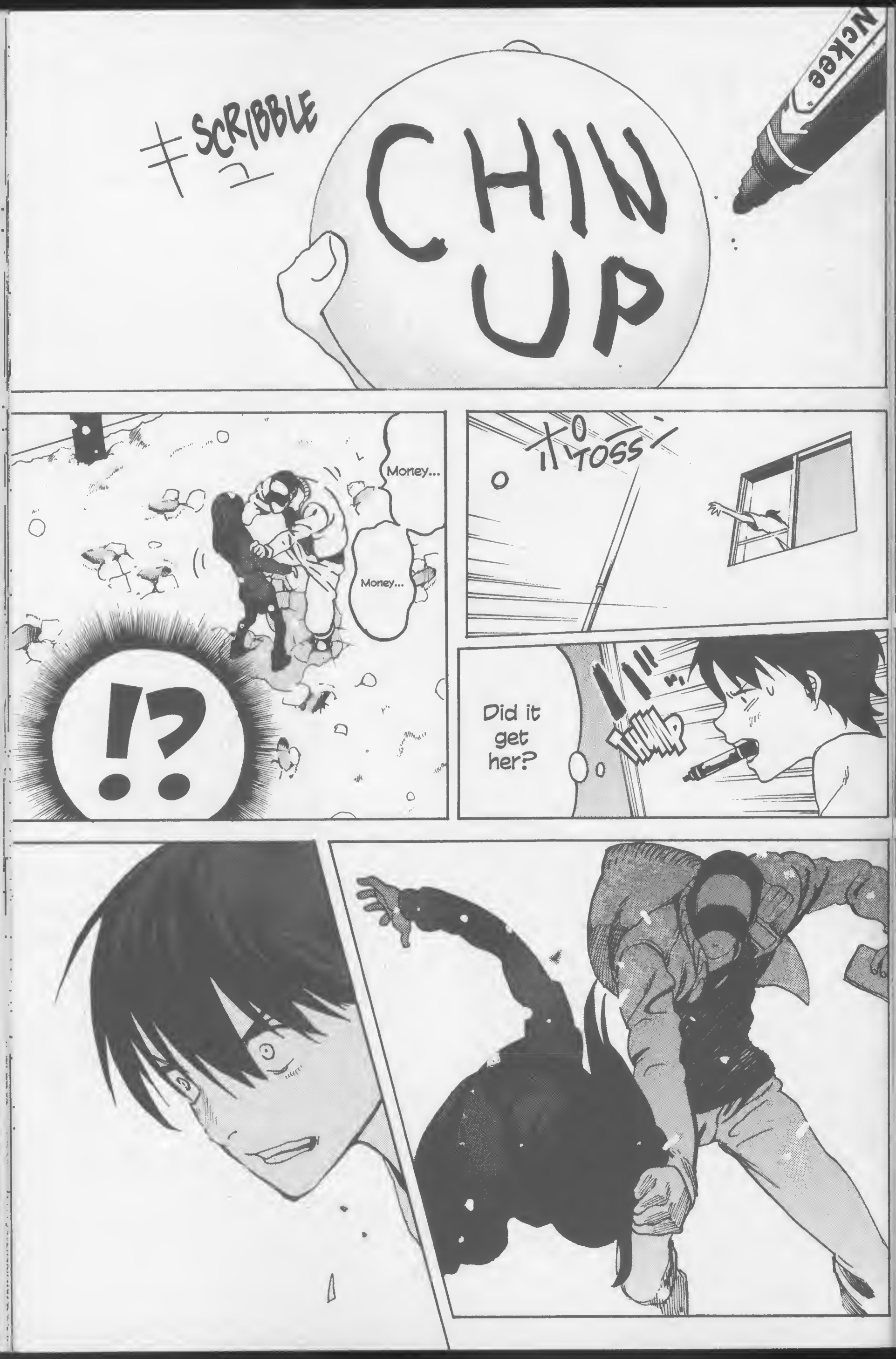

I'll be free.
Like her!
She passes by here a lot, hmm?
...

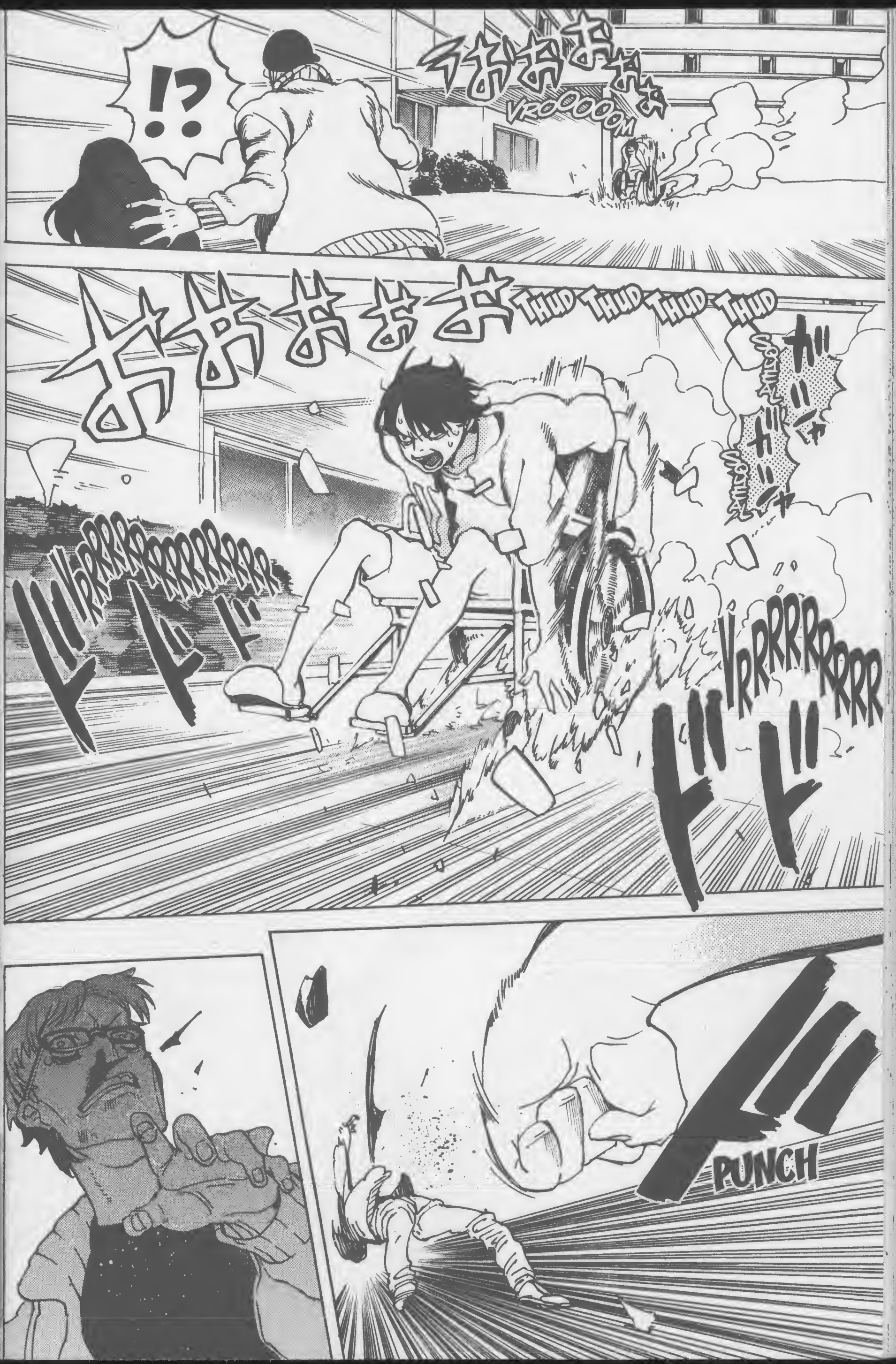

Hey...
When you become free...
What will you do?
What... ?
I dunno.

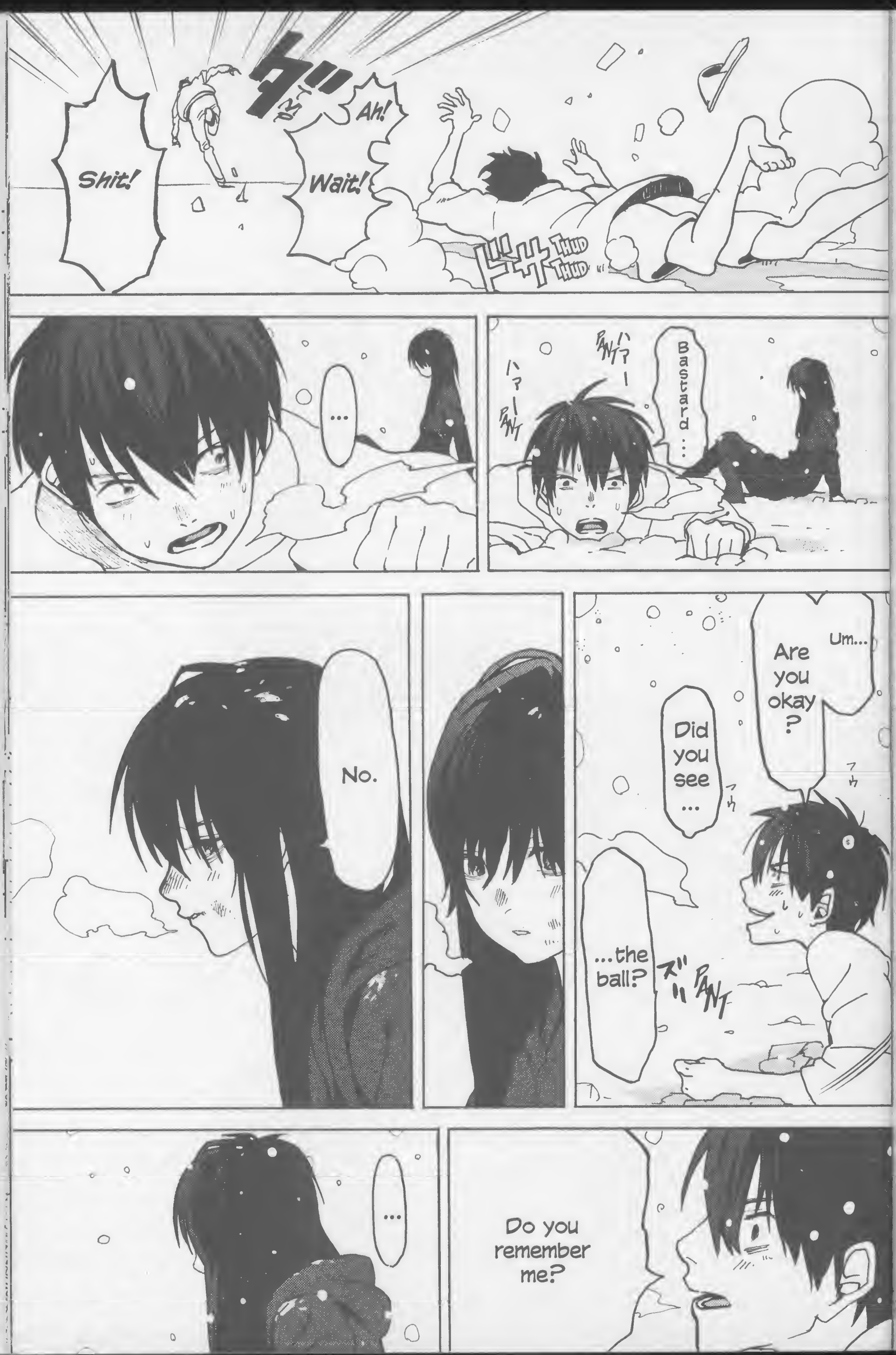

Haven't see her lately.
Wonder why?
Dunno...
GRAB
GRAB GRAB
トス THUMP
THUMP トス
Doctor...
Will he ever recover?
フゥー PANT
フゥー PANT

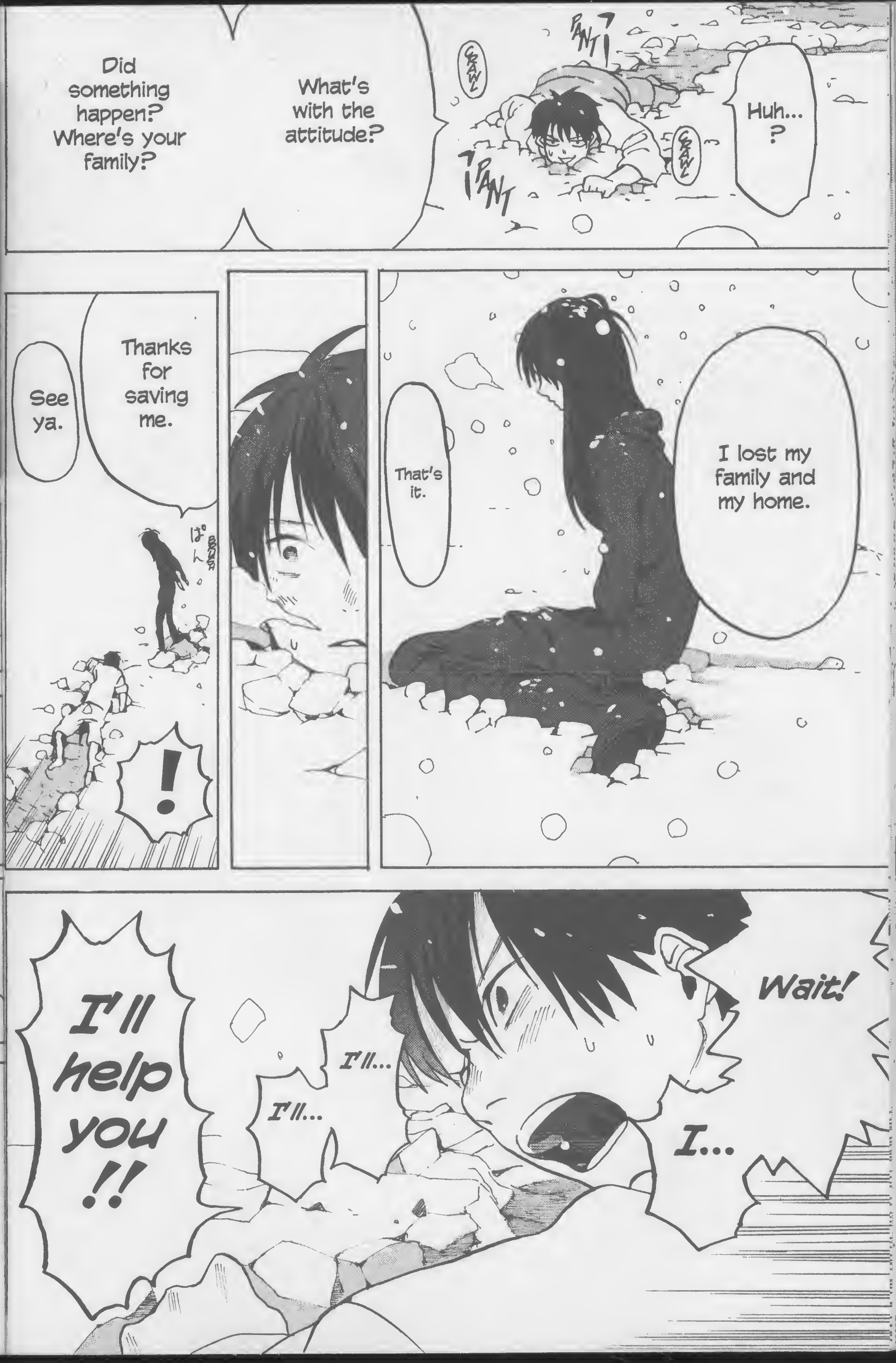

You shouldn't get your hopes up.
You can do it!
One day I will be...
I'm super happy.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
...?

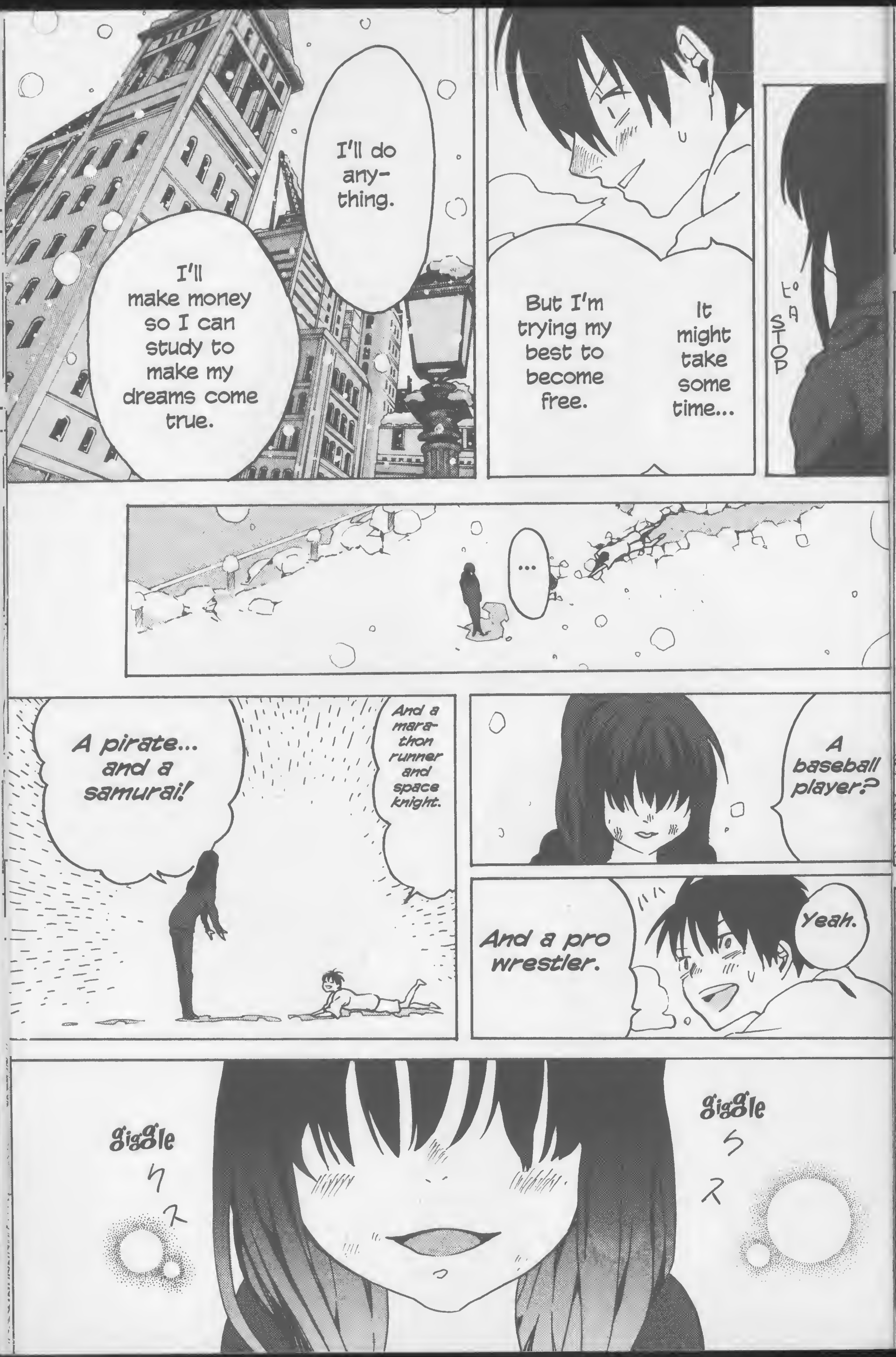

It's her...
フラ
ドカ THUD
What's wrong?
What should I do?
ハッ GASP
キュポ GASP

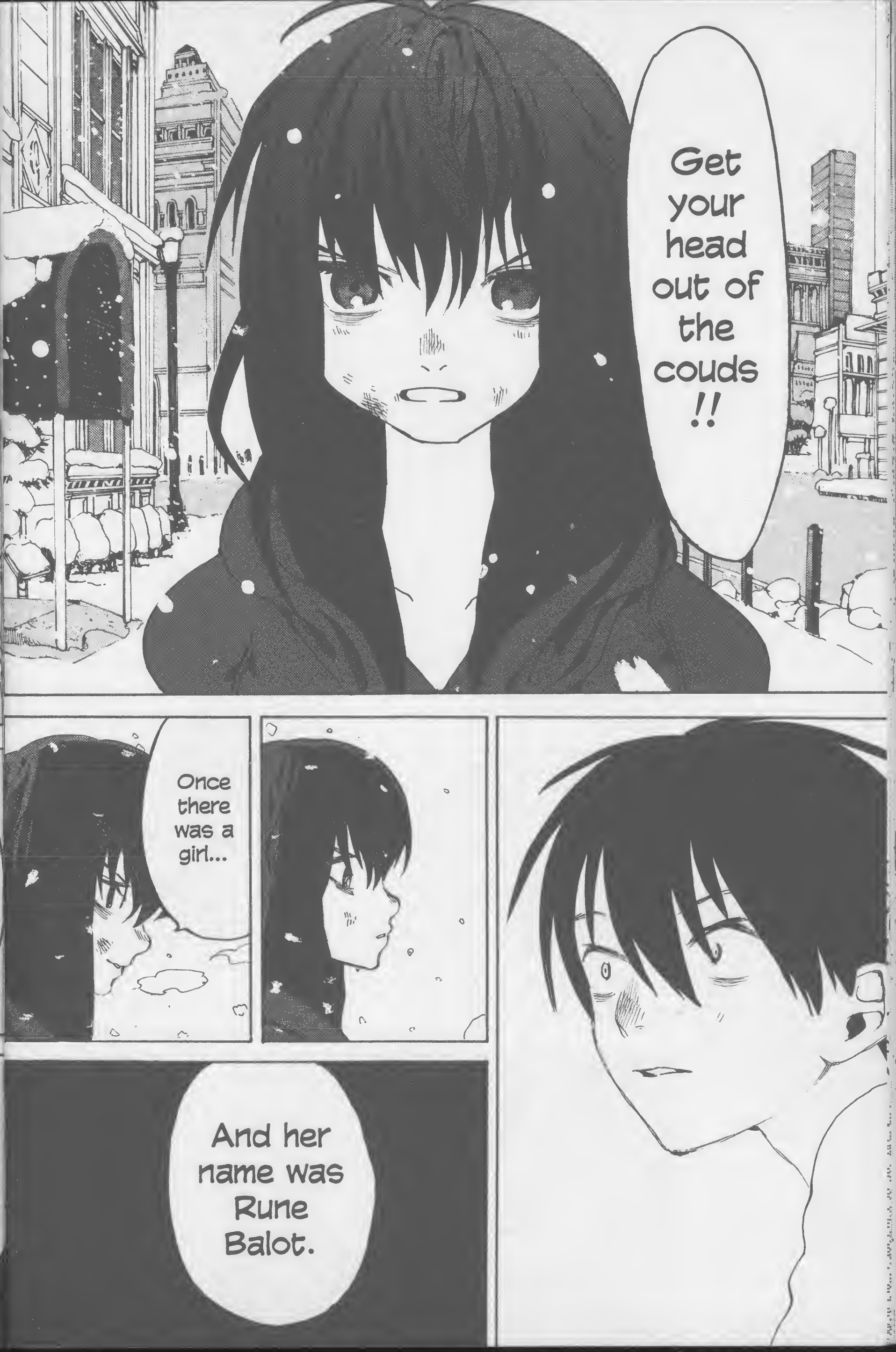

キュ SCRIBBLE
CHIN UP
Nckee
ポイ TOSS
ドバ THWAP
Did it get her?
Money...
Money...
!?

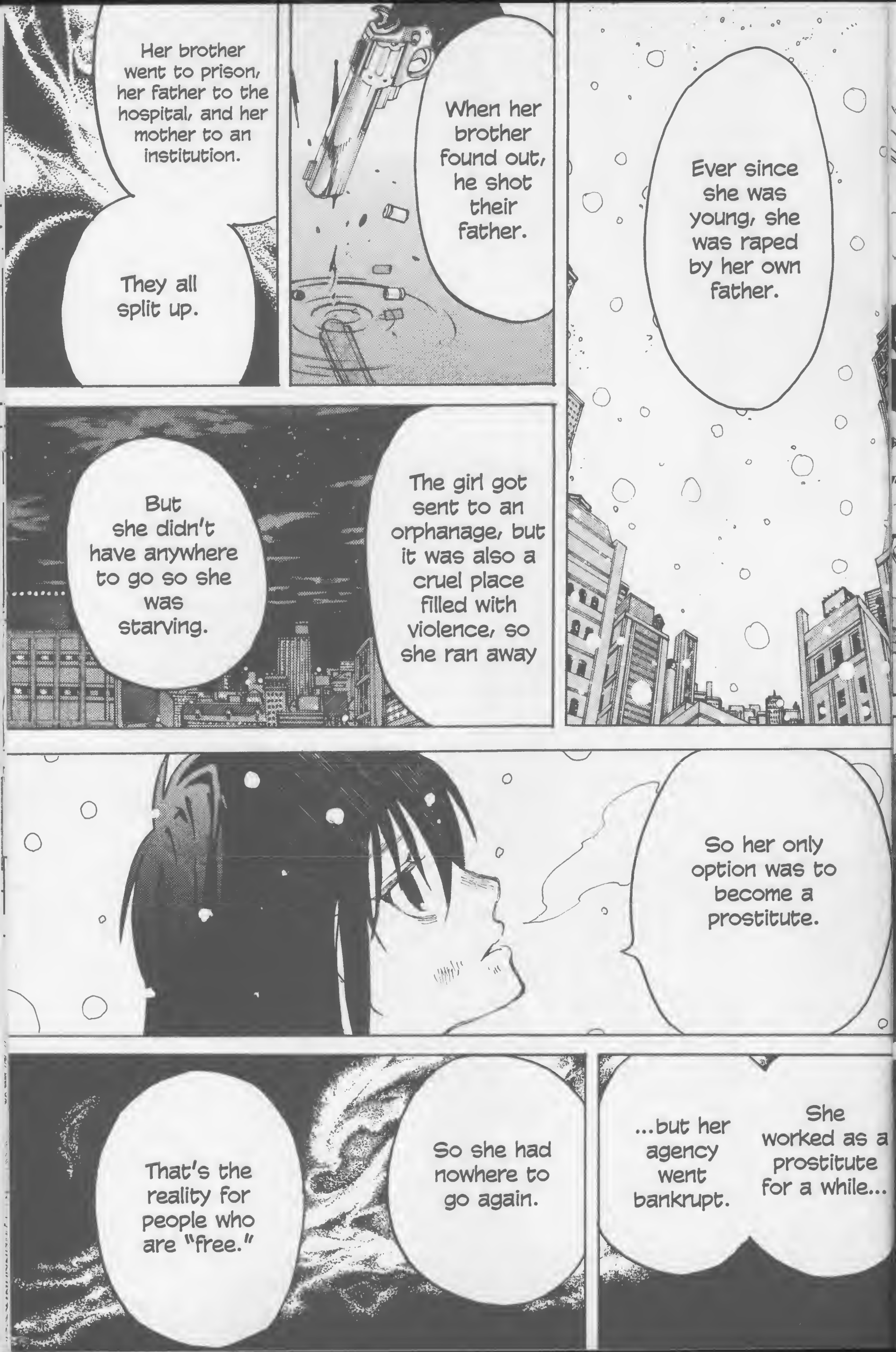

!?
おおおおお VROOOOOM
おおおおお THUD THUD THUD THUD
ガリーャ SQUEAL
ガリーャ SQUEAL
ドドド VRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
ドド VRRRRRRRRRR
ド PUNCH

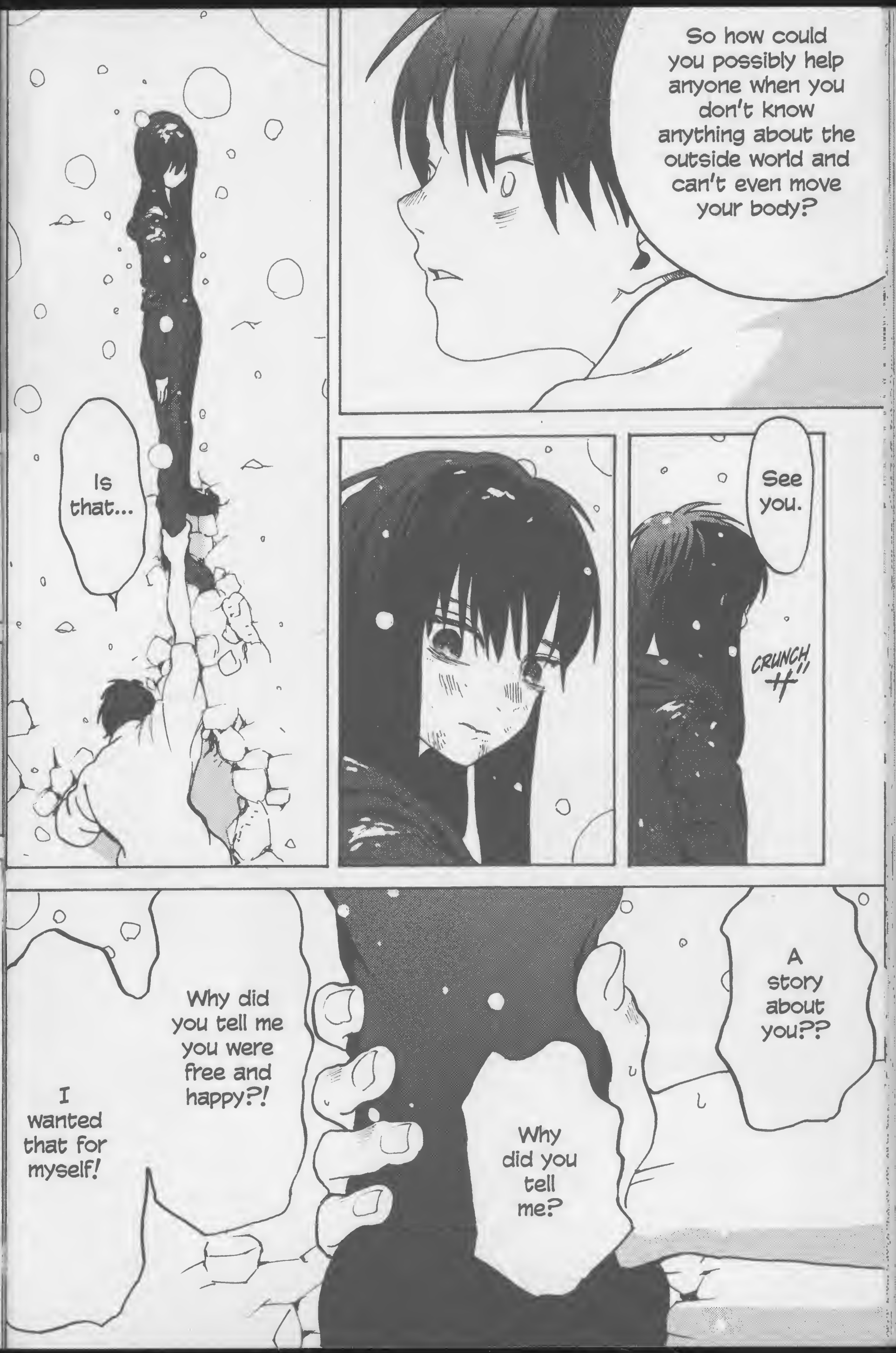

ドサ THUD THUD
Ah!
ダッ
Wait!
Shit!
Bastard...
ハァー PANT
ハァー PANT
...
Um...
Are you okay?
Did you see ...
...the ball?
フゥ
ズ PANT
No.
Do you remember me?
...

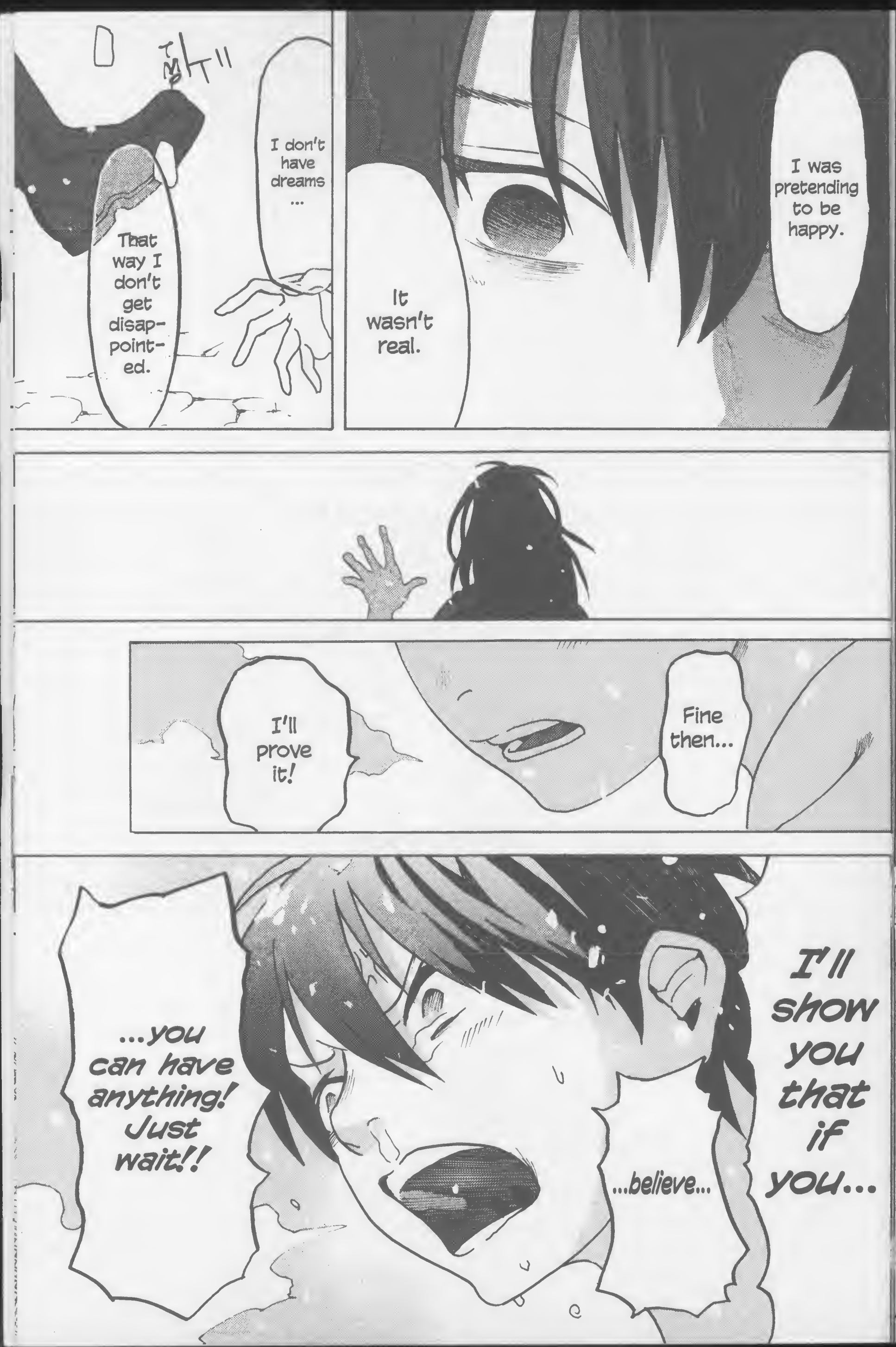

Huh...?
PANT
CRAWL
CRAWL
PANT
What's with the attitude?
Did something happen? Where's your family?
I lost my family and my home.
That's it.
Thanks for saving me.
See ya.
ぱん
!
Wait!
I...
I'll...
I'll...
I'll help you!!

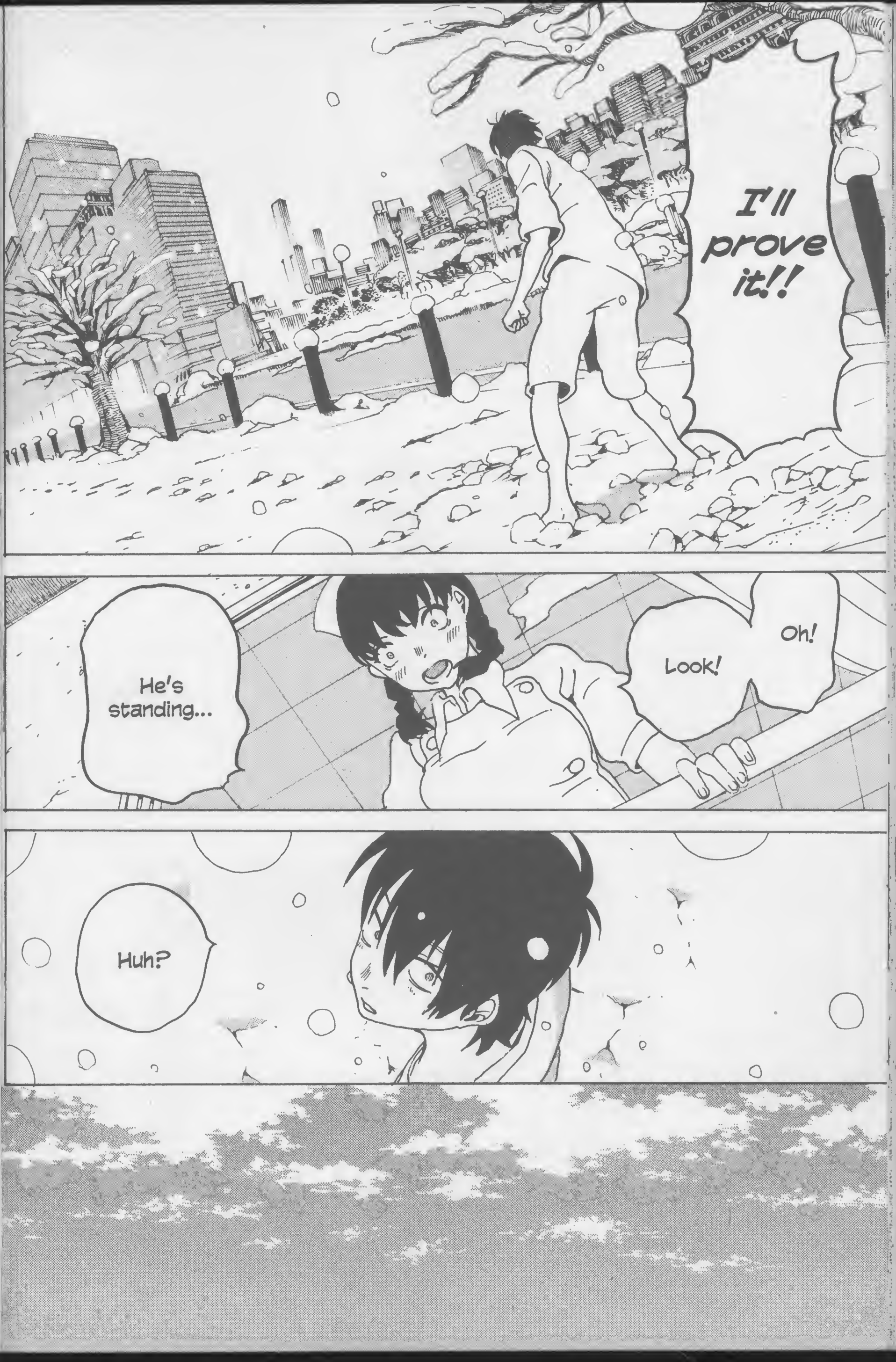

ピタ
STOP
It might take some time...
But I'm trying my best to become free.
I'll do anything.
I'll make money so I can study to make my dreams come true.
...
A baseball player?
And a marathon runner and space knight.
A pirate... and a samurai!
Yeah.
And a pro wrestler.
giggle
クス
giggle
クス

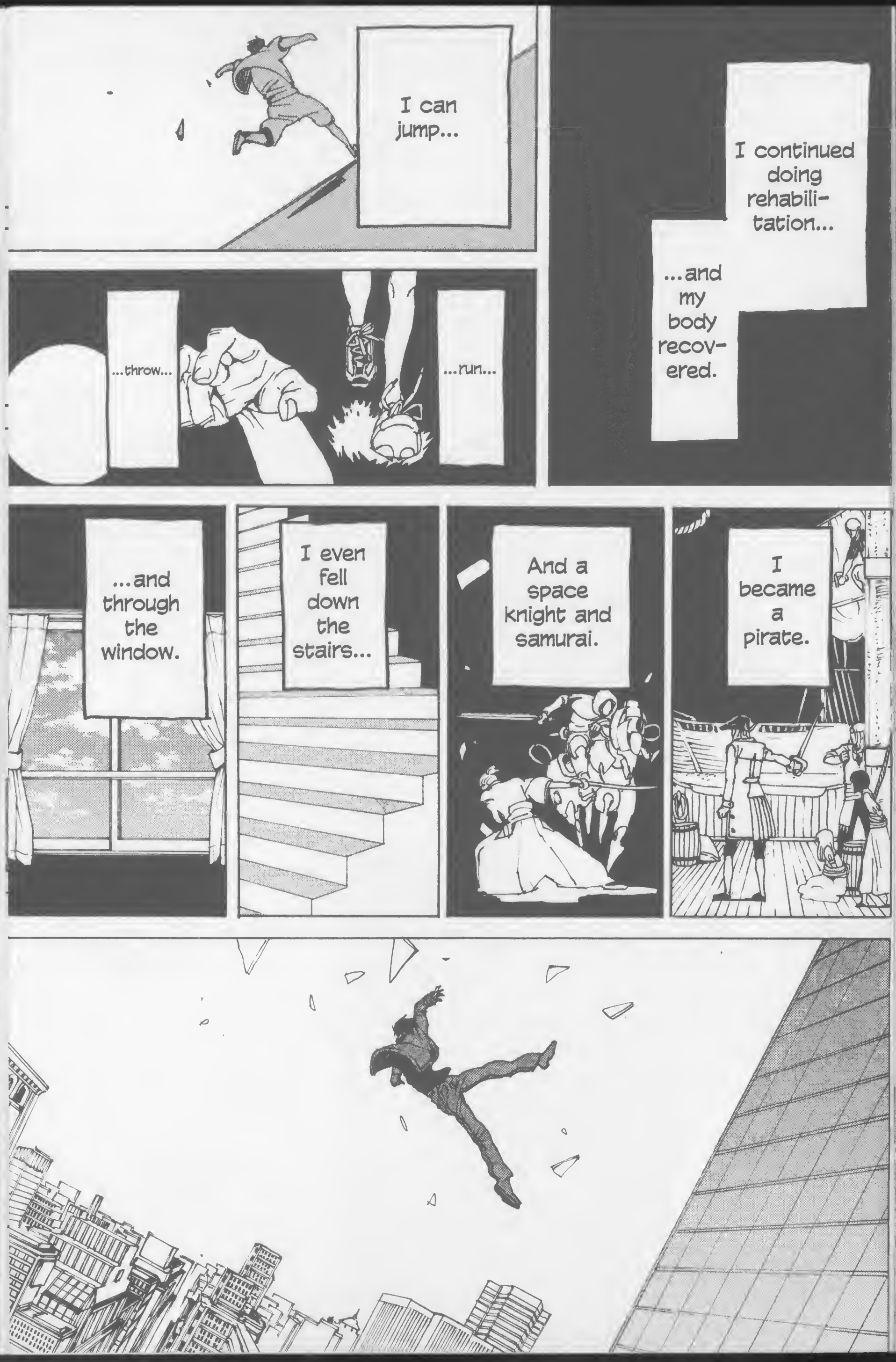

Get your head out of the couds !!
Once there was a girl...
And her name was Rune Balot.

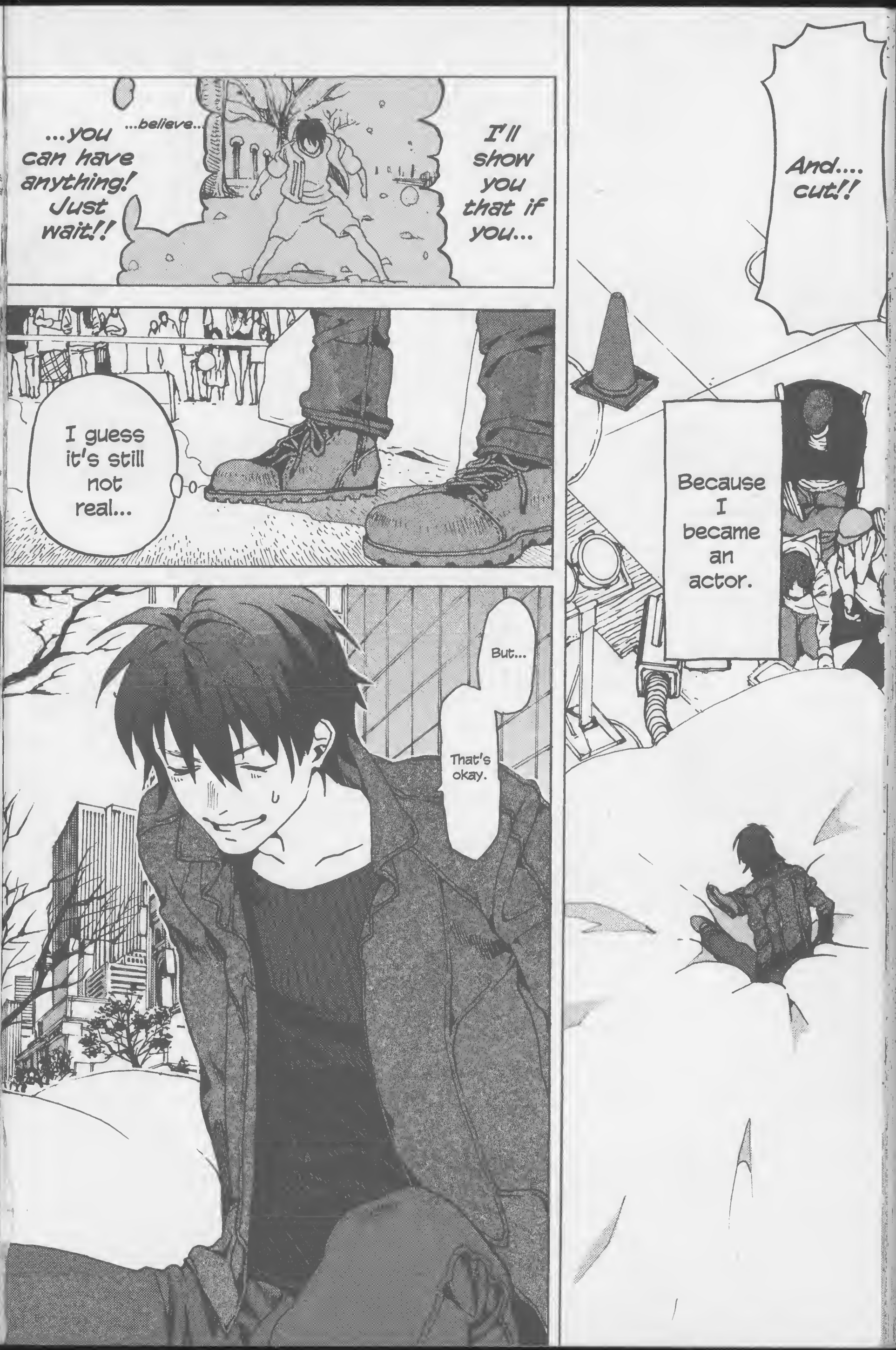

Ever since she was young, she was raped by her own father.
When her brother found out, he shot their father.
Her brother went to prison, her father to the hospital, and her mother to an institution.
They all split up.
The girl got sent to an orphanage, but it was also a cruel place filled with violence, so she ran away
But she didn't have anywhere to go so she was starving.
So her only option was to become a prostitute.
She worked as a prostitute for a while...
...but her agency went bankrupt.
So she had nowhere to go again.
That's the reality for people who are "free."

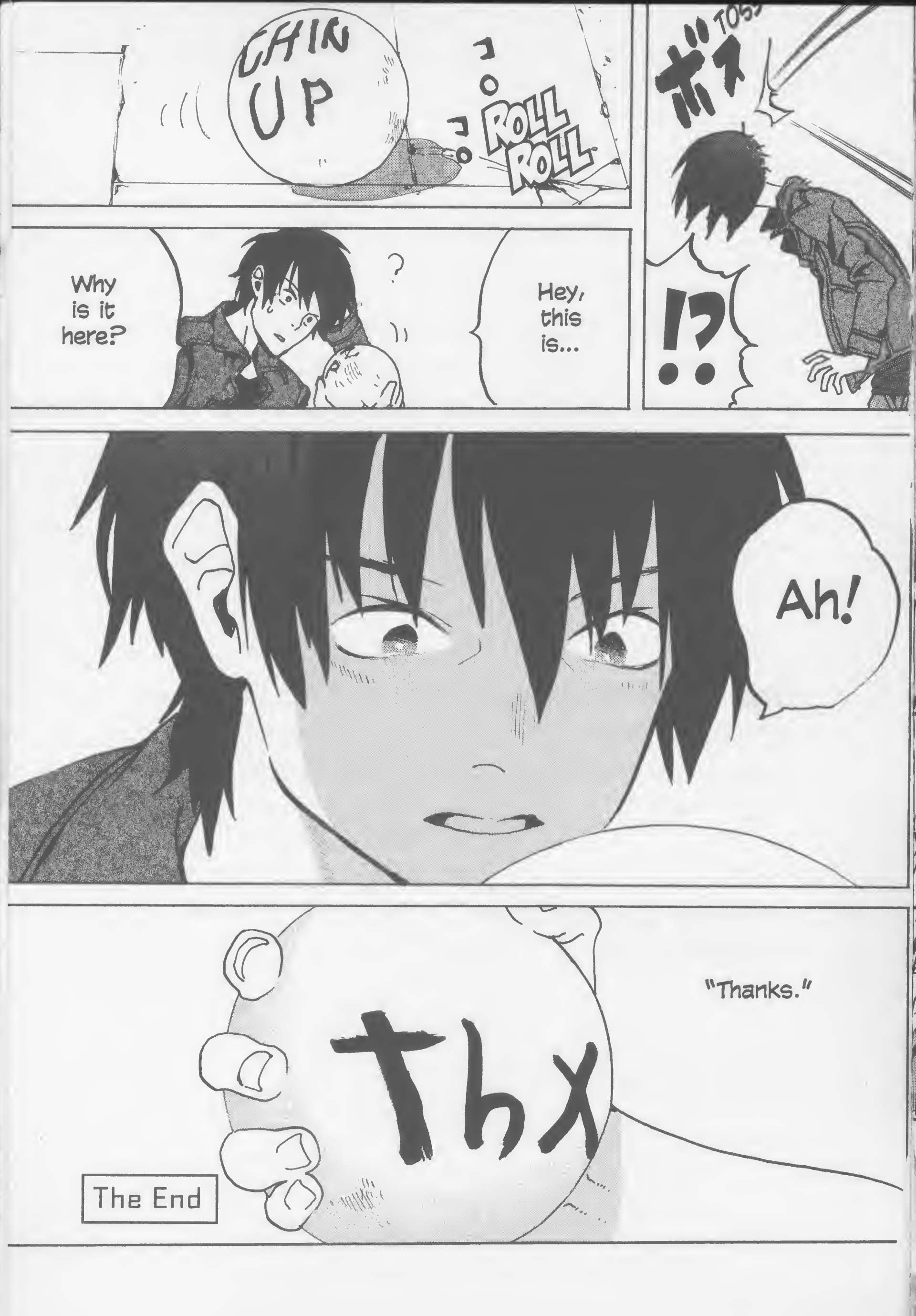

So how could you possibly help anyone when you don't know anything about the outside world and can't even move your body?
See you.
CRUNCH
Is that...
A story about you??
Why did you tell me?
Why did you tell me you were free and happy?!
I wanted that for myself!


I was pretending to be happy.
It wasn't real.
I don't have dreams...
That way I don't get disappointed.
Fine then...
I'll prove it!
I'll show you that if you...
...believe...
...you can have anything! Just wait!!


I'll prove it!!
Oh!
Look!
He's standing...
Huh?


I continued doing rehabilitation...
...and my body recovered.
I can jump...
...run...
...throw...
I became a pirate.
And a space knight and samurai.
I even fell down the stairs...
...and through the window.


And.... cut!!
Because I became an actor.
I'll show you that if you...
...believe...
...you can have anything! Just wait!!
I guess it's still not real...
But...
That's okay.


TOS
ボス
!?
CHIN UP
コロコロ
ROLL ROLL
Hey, this is...
Why is it here?
?
Ah!
"Thanks."
thx
The End